

# THE GATEWAY

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**COAST-TO-COAST TUITION** Alberta falls near the middle of the pack for average annual tuition rates.

SOURCE: STATS CANADA



SIMON YACKULIC  
News Staff

With cranes and construction crews a common sight around campus, University of Alberta students are constantly reminded of the money the University is pouring into improvements. As President Indira Samarasekera noted in her town hall meeting on October 19, this has helped the University to achieve 59th

place on the Times Higher Education rankings. But while placing 59th worldwide, the U of A must also deal with a \$59-million budget shortfall.

For the 2010/11 operating budget, the U of A has planned to spend \$59 million more than they actually have available. To fix this budgeting oversight, Samarasekera explained that the

University has targeted three measures that will be considered in a balanced approach: increase revenues from students, “achieve administrative and program efficiencies across the institution,” and “moderate the rate of increase

## Ministry of Advanced Education willing to consider tuition hikes

in faculty and staff salary and benefit costs.”

It was later revealed that the “balanced” approach would mean that undergraduate tuition would be raised in certain faculties — in some cases, dramatically — with the goal of raising \$20 million extra in revenue to plug the hole in the budget. While some faculties such as Arts and Science seem to get by relatively unscathed, Pharmacy students are facing a proposed increase of 66 per cent.

While Pharmacy is the hardest hit faculty, the administration and students are approaching the government with a number of other steep tuition/fee increase propositions. Tuition could increase by 39 per cent for Business (\$2,000 per year), 35 per cent for Engineering (\$2,040 per year), 35 per cent for Medicine (\$4,000 per year), 32 per cent for Law (\$3,151 per year), 21 per cent for Dentistry (\$4,000 per year), and three per cent for Economics, Design students in the

Faculty of Arts, as well as Nutrition and Food Sciences in Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences (\$150 per year).

If this seems unusual, it is — since 2006, tuition increases have been tied to the Canadian Price Index. CPI takes the cost of buying certain goods in one year and compares that to the cost of buying the same goods the next year, averaging the increase as a percentage.

Following CPI increases allows tuition modification to be low, tied to actual market pressures, and predictable when compared to other yearly increases.

Students’ Union Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham and Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students, explained that if tuition was to follow CPI this next year, the increase would be fairly reasonable at only about 1.5 per cent.

“Tuition increasing by CPI is something that CAUS supports,” Eastham said.

She also noted that student support for tying tuition to CPI wasn’t, from the outset, unconditional.

“We’ve also maintained that the base rate of tuition that CPI started to take effect on was actually too high,” she said.

PLEASE SEE **TUITION** ♦ PAGE 3

## Downtown arena could include practice facilities, student residences

ANTONY TA  
News Staff

A proposed downtown arena district may soon transform Edmonton’s city centre, and as the list of potential construction features rise, development interests at the University of Alberta and other postsecondary institutions are piquing.

Billionaire Edmontonian Daryl Katz committed \$100 million towards a new arena for the city when he purchased the Edmonton Oilers.

Now Katz’s arena proposal has morphed into a downtown revitalization project which may cost much more than originally planned. City Councillor Bryan Anderson believes that Katz may require strong support to realize his vision, and the U of A may be one of the groups getting behind him.

“It is easier to make an arena pay if you have two or more tenants,” Anderson said. “The Katz group has a very large vision [and] it requires a variety of partners with both interest and the ability to finance a variety of pieces.”

U of A Vice President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey believes that although the arena itself may not be

incentive for getting involved in the project, other parts of the Katz proposal might be.

“It’s not attractive to have [student] residences around an arena [but] to have residences in and around an urban redevelopment could be rather interesting,” Hickey explained. “Since [adding] Enterprise Square we’ve continually said that we would continue to look for opportunities to increase our presence downtown.”

“It really has to be an urban renewal project to create a downtown community; an increased presence downtown is good for the city and good for the University,” Hickey added.

As president and CEO of the Edmonton Oilers, and former Chair of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Patrick LaForge agreed that such a vision will be a challenge. But he believes that the promise of such a project is worth the commitment.

“Downtown revitalization is critically important to Edmonton, [so] this is the brightest and most exciting thing to come along for downtown [Edmonton] in decades,” he said.

LaForge outlined part of the Katz group vision and what might be found at the site north of 104 Avenue and flanked by 101 Street and 105 Street.

Besides the 18,000–19,000-seat arena and proposed student residences, a lot is also being considered.

“The site contemplates an arena that has a practice arena in it. It also contemplates a couple of hotels; maybe a casino; maybe some convention space; maybe some office space,” LaForge said.

Government buildings, arts and culture venues similar to the Winspear, and perhaps facilities for an extension of the MacEwan University theatre program are all other possible additions. There’s also talk of the practice arena servicing the MacEwan Griffins, Nait Ooks, and on occasion, the U of A Golden Bears.

Dan Mason, a specialist in leisure and sport strategic management at the U of A, believes that the downtown location of an arena is vital not only to urban renewal but also to the integrity of the modern sports entertainment facility.

“After [the 1950s], you had the movement of people out of the downtown into suburban locations [and] the downtown core had basically been gutted,” Mason explained.

“From a city planning perspective, it makes more sense to do this downtown.”

PLEASE SEE **ARENA** ♦ PAGE 4



PAUL SWANSON

**TEAM PLAY** LaForge believes many groups can help revitalize the arena’s area.

### Inside

News	1–5
Opinion	6–8
A&E	10–14
Sports	15–17
Comics	18
Classifieds	19



### Calendar debate

A quick tour of the coolest-named courses in the University catalogue.

OPINION, PAGE 8



### Cadaver debate

Peter Jackson’s latest movie is specifically *not* a ghost story, despite the dead protagonist.

A&E, PAGE 10

### Season’s Greetings

Like many of our readers, the *Gateway* will be taking a much-needed holiday break. You can expect a return to journalism come January, but be sure to keep an eye out for a special present on next Tuesday’s newsstand.



## THE GATEWAY

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Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat  
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plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in  
a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**,  
**Kepler** and **Whitney**. The *Manitoban* is the Gateway's  
sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that  
way." The Gateway's games of choice are *Mirror's Edge*  
and *Ravenloft*.

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## Student's website to reinstate credit card tuition payments

**JONATHAN TAVES**  
Deputy News EditorStudents opposed to the University  
of Alberta's discontinuation of  
credit cards as a payment option in  
July 2008 will soon see that option  
returned to them, but not on behalf  
of any U of A decision.Third-year business student David  
Murray is launching Pay4u on  
December 4, a third-party website  
set up to let U of A students use their  
credit cards for fee payments."People were complaining about  
the [credit card issue] still," Murray  
said. "[I thought] maybe this is  
something somebody could provide  
as a separate entity from the school.  
I looked into the legalities of that,  
which said as long as you're a sepa-  
rate entity from the U of A, you can  
provide it."Murray started the company with  
a friend in Engineering, who helped  
with website design, and another  
friend who attends NAIT.The website, pay4unow.ca, allows  
users to pay any amount, and the  
company then issues in a cheque to  
the University."Let's say your parents wrote  
a cheque on your behalf. [The  
University] doesn't care where the  
money's coming from, as long as  
we indicate it's a student's tuition,  
and which student it is," Murray  
explained.However Ron Ritter, director and  
treasurer of the U of A's financial ser-  
vices, is hesitant about the site's use, and  
noted that the University wouldn't enter  
into any type of agency agreement with

the company.

"We're not endorsing or behind  
this in any way, shape, or form," he  
said. "We're aware that there's ini-  
tiatives like this out there, but we're  
reluctant to enter into any sort of  
arrangement with them because we  
know there would be additional ser-  
vice fees for students, even though  
they're voluntary in nature."The website will charge a fee of  
3.39 per cent on each transaction,  
and based on his market research,  
Murray thinks the rate is fair."We found a lot of people weren't  
interested in [the service] based on  
financial duress — it was more on  
the rewards you receive and con-  
venience you receive by using your  
credit card," Murray explained."The average credit card returns  
one to two per cent cash back in  
rewards, so that's a lot of it coming  
back into their pocket," he added.  
"It's a convenience thing. You're  
paying for a service that provides you  
with the convenience of being able to  
defer your payments."Another factor preventing the  
University from entering into an  
agreement with the company is secu-  
rity costs."An agency relationship would  
introduce certain risk management  
issues for the University, and there  
would be costs associated with man-  
aging those," Ritter said.Despite the lack of official U of A  
association, Murray is confident that  
the measures he's undertaken to pro-  
tect students' information will be  
more than sufficient.

"Visa and Mastercard have to do



DAN MCKECHNIE

**PUT ON PLASTIC** Murray thinks students will welcome back credit card use.checks on your website; so they go  
and do hacking tests to make sure the  
certifications are all there," he said.  
"I went to the max. We put as much  
security certification as we could find  
for it so it was as solid as it could be."Murray noted he isn't expecting the  
site to make credit card use as wide-  
spread as it was before."It's not a scam, and we're not trying  
to reach everybody," he said. "But  
there is a market out there of people  
who do want this option [and] some  
that need this option. We just wanted  
to come and provide it for a reason-  
able price. Hopefully people will be  
comfortable with it, trust us, see that  
it works, and tell their friends."

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Scott Fenwick and Pete Yee**Mary Gillard**  
ALES IV**Jared Kope**  
Phys Ed IV**Anna Machood**  
Science II**Timish Horbay**  
Arts III would love it. It would be fun. If you  
got cheap hockey tickets, that would be  
great. Tailgate parties are always fun. I  
would live there if it were cheap.I wouldn't mind it, but I'm a hockey fan. It  
wouldn't be a terrible thing and the night-  
life would be good. [It's] not a bad thing.  
The only thing is [that] it's not convenient  
to be off campus.I don't know, it's kinda in the sleazy part  
of downtown, isn't it? And as physically  
intimidating as I am, I don't think I'd feel  
comfortable living in that area. So I think  
I'll stick down here.It would be fun. There's no real reason not  
to, and [it] could make for some interest-  
ing neighbours. I just think it would be  
an interesting way to go and I think it's  
a smart way to revitalize the downtown  
core because as it sits, having a cruddy  
casino and an airport that nobody uses is  
a pretty poor use of space. It would be an  
interesting way to use the space.**It's the end of  
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# Increases to be reviewed case-by-case

**TUITION ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

“So this is the first time that we’ve seen our institution come out and say that it was actually too low, and that there’s no opportunity for discussion and they’d like to use the market modifiers to raise that base level of tuition up to where they think it should be.”

While the University is focused on raising tuition to balance their books and circumvent the CPI caps, the University needs to get the increases approved by the province. To do so, the University needs to convince the provincial government that the tuition levels were too low when CPI was originally tied to tuition — adopting a position that directly contradicts that of CAUS. According to Doug Horner, Alberta’s Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, with the U of A’s back against the wall and an impending large deficit on the horizon, he may be open to allowing the tuition increases — but only if the University demonstrates reasonable proposals.

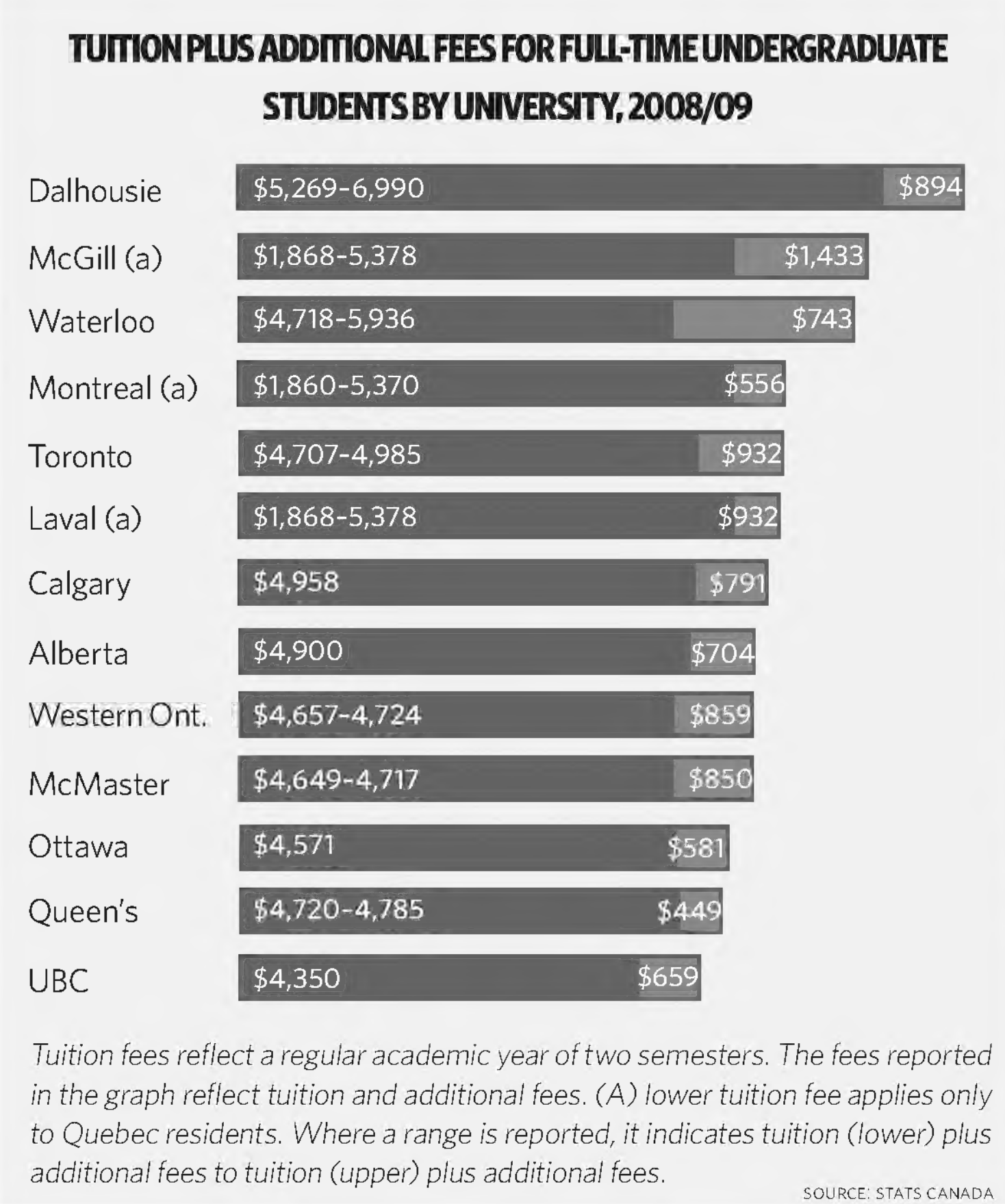
“What I’m looking at doing is protecting the CPI. I think that’s more important to the overall group of students than a ‘market modifier’ that actually creates fairness in the system,” Horner elaborated.

“So when you say to me ‘you’re going to raise tuition,’ I go right back to you and say ‘we’re in a very tough situation here, and I want the University to come out of it in a positive way, and I’m prepared to look at fair and reasonable proposals.’ But I’m not prepared to say that the CPI cap is going to be removed.”

Should the U of A face difficulties in getting the increases approved, the burden may be distributed more evenly using increased mandatory non-instructional fees for all students. On average, an additional \$500 would be required from each student to make up the \$20 million.

“That’s entirely up to [schools]. We don’t set those. We didn’t put a cap in on user fees,” Horner said.

Horner explained that when the CPI cap was imposed in 2006 — and tuition was rolled back to 2004 levels — one thing that was missed was “looking at tuition as it relates to fairness.” Fairness, as defined by the government, relates to a student’s ability to take the investment of their education and then turn around and recoup that investment in



the economy. The graduates of some faculties will make more out of school than others, and for tuition to be “fair” it should reflect this.

“When you look at the overall package of affordability for our students, we actually come out pretty well. And certainly when you talk about the quality of our institutions, I would say that the investments that the students are making, and the government, is part of the reason why we have the quality,” Horner said. “Remember, you’re only talking 20–25 per cent of the cost of providing that education is actually born by the student. That’s a pretty darn good investment by both sides.”

Horner said he will consider any tuition hike proposals, but still reserves judgment on approving anything.

“We’ll look at all ideas to lower costs or to raise revenue outside of tuition and other areas. We’ll look at everything,” he said. “[Is the U of A] going to go ahead and do across the board with all their tuitions? The answer is no; we won’t let them.”

However, as Eastham pointed out,

the University is on shaky ground if they attempt to argue that general tuition at the U of A ranks low on a national scale.

“Alberta is the third highest tuition in Canada, and from that number, the University of Alberta is a little bit lower,” Eastham stated.

Furthermore, the “Alberta Advantage” seems to have left many students behind this past summer. While the cost of living and the cost of tuition are higher than average in Alberta, the economic downturn made it harder for students to find employment. With tuition to raise and debts to pay off, Eastham expects students will face difficulties concentrating on their school work.

“The massive unemployment rates we saw this summer probably mean more students than usual, even, are having to work second and third jobs if they can find them during the school year, or trying to find other ways of making money to pay for their education. It takes away from the amount of time that they’re able to spend on campus devoted to their academic life.”

# Protesters ask Ambrose for green industry

**SEAN STEELS**  
Senior News Editor

A group of students and teachers from the University of Alberta took a literal stand against climate degradation on Wednesday outside the office of Conservative Member of Parliament Rona Ambrose.

The event coincided with a similar occurrence at the office of Jim Prentice, Federal Minister of Environment, although it was unaffiliated with the one at Prentice’s office, or any other environmental movements.

“We’re part of a larger movement of unaffiliated Canadians around the country that are standing up and demanding climate justice,” said protester and U of A linguistics graduate Keely Kidner.

The group camped out at Ambrose’s office to protest what they are calling Canada’s current “inaction on climate change.” They hope that in light of the protest, Ambrose — who is also the Federal Minister of Labour — will look to investment in environmentally friendly industries.

“We’re asking her to be a leader in

the global transition to a green economy and start investing in green jobs for Canada. Already, we’re behind,” she said, adding her fear that Canada would soon begin lagging precipitously behind global standards for developed countries.

**“Canada has been called a roadblock to Copenhagen. We were voted one of the worst obstructors of climate change action in Poland.”**

**KEELY KIDNER**  
PROTESTER, U OF A ALUMNA

The protest was also an appeal to Ambrose to push the government for stricter protocols at the upcoming U.N. Copenhagen Climate Change Summit 2009, which will set international environmental standards.

“Canada has been called a road-

block to Copenhagen. We were voted [one of] the worst obstructors of climate change action in Poland, and recent [Vancouver-based Hoggan & Associates] survey show that 75 per cent of Canadians are embarrassed by this country’s lack of climate change action,” Kidner elaborated.

Kidner pointed out that without the leadership of the Canadian government, those who contribute the least to climate change, such as indigenous communities, northern communities, developing nations, island states, and future generations, would all be left high and — considering the effects of melting ice caps — not so dry.

“That’s a pretty clear message to the government. The United Nations climate group has said that we need to stabilize emissions by 2015,” she said.

“Minister of Environment Jim Prentice has recently said that Canada needs 40 years to stabilize emissions. In 30 years, I’m going to be 67. It’s directly affecting my life, and the life of my children as well.”

As of press time, Rona Ambrose could not be reached for comment.

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“ The mics are back, and there's still chaos.

**CRAIG TURNER**  
Council Speaker*—on the return of microphones to council chamber, and the persistence of bureaucratic chaos.*COUNCIL  
FORUM*Written by Sean Steels*

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, where free food will be provided for all attendees.*

*Council switched its menu from last week, losing the wraps and adopting a lovely spread of Greek salad, pitas, and hummus. In a word: delicious. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.*

## SO WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

After the cancellation of the night's scheduled presentation from APIRG, councillors were left with a relatively short agenda on Tuesday night, as question period and executive reports were the focus for the rest of the night. President Kory Mathewson reported that he was currently looking into the private sector to explore credit card payment options for students.

Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod had an update on Student Counselling Services, which is about to see the addition of a \$20 fee. The additional fee will allow SCS to hire two more counsellors and hopefully remedy a current shortage of counselling services for University students. Dehod reminded council that the U of A has one of the lowest counsellor-to-student ratios in the country.

Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham told council about her recent trips out of town to both the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's last conference, and Canadian Alliance of Student Associations conference. Eastham touched on CASA's national survey, which now has 2,735 U of A respondents, making it statistically valid.

## QUESTION PERIOD

Mathewson was asked whether he planned to release a more comprehensive report on the SU student survey. Preliminary results from the survey are now available, but councillors expressed their wish that a more detailed report, including comparisons to other G-13 schools' surveys, be included.

He also touched on developments for the Students' Union Centenary Award, which is given in honour of the Students' Union's centenary. Mathewson hopes the award will be an endowed achievement given to students of satisfactory academic achievement who display leadership and involvement with the campus community.

Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman heard questions about the popularity of the Student Union's new brew, Wicked Panda, which is actually Molson Black Label. He had to report that, unfortunately, delays in the branding and logo design for the new beer have so far impeded its progress, and that hopefully it would be released in the new year.

Dehod fielded questions about changes to SCS, and whether or not the new \$20 fee would be covered under the SU health plan. Dehod informed

counsellors that the full \$20 fee would be covered, and clarified that, despite being an internal service, students would still be required to fill out claim forms in the health plan office to avoid raising health plan premiums.

Market modifiers were a hot topic, as the SU executive were shotgunned with a question on how they planned to secure student financial aid in the light of possible skyrocketing student fees.

Mathewson reported that the executive were currently meeting on a regular basis with the Budget Advisory Committee to demand financial aid, but that so far the meetings had been primarily used to obtain information from the committee, and reply at a later date. Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood added that they were being as forceful as possible in negotiations, but nebulous negotiation terms were slowing progress.

Fentiman was asked about the condition of elevators in the Students' Union Building, which, as many students know, are prone to getting stuck, deleting floor selections, and shutting on riders. Fentiman acknowledged the shoddy machinery, and stated that although the SU was not responsible for elevator repairs, he would raise the issue with maintenance.

## U(R) PASS

In first reading, council put forward a referendum to the Bylaw Committee asking students about approving the newly minted U-Pass plan. Although the precisely worded motion has yet to be finalized, it indicated the need of mandatory fees for all students, and universal transit use in Edmonton city limits.



## FACT:

The Battle of Uji in the year 1180 marked the outbreak of Japan's Genpei war. The Minamoto clan's claimant to the imperial throne, prince Mochihito, was chased to a temple by the enemy Taira clan's soldiers. A Taira-supporting monk delayed the Minamoto reinforcements, and they arrived too late to help the prince and his forces trapped in the temple.

## FACT:

Though we're halfway through the year, you can never be too late to reinforce the *Gateway* news staff. So even if it's your first time, come out to next semester's meetings and aid in our campaign of campus journalism.

## GATEWAY NEWS

Holding our position until  
reinforcements arrive since 1910

News Meetings resume in January  
Fridays at 3 p.m. in 3-04 SUB  
[newsies@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:newsies@gateway.ualberta.ca)

CAMPUS  
CRIME BEAT*Compiled by Sean Steels*

## BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN PARIS

On November 18, CSS received a report of a male who is approaching students at various study areas around campus and asking for money. The male asks for \$17 needed for travel fees. When people say they don't have any cash, the male asks if they have a debit/credit card and offer to accompany them to an ATM.

The male is described as Caucasian, in his 20s, with dark hair, and wearing a beige baseball cap and denim jacket. If he is seen, please contact Campus Security immediately at 780-492-5050, as he is believed to be a suspected in several thefts around campus.

## FIGHT CLUB

Just after 1 a.m. on November 20, CSS received a call from student staff reporting a fight in Lister Centre. Officers attended but the fight had already disbanded. Both males had sustained injuries but did not wish to lay charges. One of the males was found to have a criminal history that included violence-related offences.

The fight was believed to have started due to two other fights involving friends that occurred earlier in the night off campus.

## ONETOOMANY

Just before midnight on November 21, CSS received a report of an overly

intoxicated female in a University residence. CSS attended and identified the female. They determined she was not in need of medical attention and was left in the care of sober friends

## AREAL JAMES BOND

Around 9 a.m. on November 22 a HUB business reported a male walking through the mall panhandling. CSS attended and attempted to identify the male who gave a fake name before properly identifying himself.

The male was escorted out of HUB and left campus via LRT. This male is also believed to be involved in a theft of a backpack in SUB. He is described as Caucasian, in his late 20s, wearing a two-tone gray winter jacket, blue jeans, and black toque.

## DAZED AND CONFUSED

On the evening of November 22, CSS received a report of an intoxicated male in distress near the Human Ecology building. Officers attended and spoke with a male who had become lost and had sustained numerous cuts and scrapes from falling.

The male was not affiliated with the University and had a criminal history that included armed robbery. He was given an escort to his residence and left in the care of his parents.

## STARTING YOUNG

On the afternoon of November 23, a HUB business reported they were detaining three male youths for shoplifting. Both the Edmonton Police and CSS attended. The youths all had extensive criminal history ranging from theft to weapons offences. All three were trespassed from campus and turned over to the Edmonton Police.

Practice rink a  
possibility for  
U of A students

## AUCTION ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perhaps one of the major reasons that postsecondary institutions and the provincial government are being offered new infrastructure within the arena district is owed to the question of whether public funding should be used in addition to private funding for construction.

"The Arena Feasibility Study concluded three things: the feasibility for an arena is [very high], the arena should be downtown, and it should be a P3 project — it should involve [both] public and private investment," LaForge said.

Despite the study's findings, Anderson still has doubts. He and other city councillors believe that a new arena that competes with Northlands will have difficulty financing itself post-construction.

"I don't know if there's enough support on city council to contribute public funds to a downtown arena," Anderson contended. "No city in its right mind can operate two large venues like Rexall Place and a downtown arena at the same time — they would both go broke."

Regardless of who funds it, Mason believes that the project will require much teamwork.

"In a perfect world, no public funds would go into [an arena], but I don't think the Oilers could build this all on their own and sustain it," he said.



# CASA national survey funded by McGill SA legal settlement

LUCY SCHOLEY  
*The Dalhousie Gazette (Dalhousie University)*

HALIFAX (CUP) — Close to \$30,000 being put towards a survey of Canadian students by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is coming from a settlement with a McGill University student association.

CASA national director Arati Sharma explained the survey’s details at the alliance’s annual general meeting in Halifax last week.

“We sincerely do apologize [for any miscommunications about the survey] because we do feel that this was in our jurisdiction to decide,” Sharma said at Dalhousie University on November 20.

The survey has been raising questions among some CASA members who were unclear of its details, including those who made the decision to conduct the survey and where the money came from.

The Canadian Student Survey is a project co-initiated by CASA and the Canadian Education Project, a Toronto-based research group. It’s the first time Canadian student unions and lobby groups have designed such a broad survey for data gathering purposes. The idea behind the survey is to prop up advocacy and lobby efforts. In previous years, these groups relied on data from outside research groups.

At the time of the AGM plenary — the meeting when a representative from each student union votes on the specific policy decisions up for debate — 20,000 students had completed the survey.

Due to confidentiality reasons, Sharma couldn’t disclose details of the settlement with the Students’ Society of McGill University, but said the issue regarded missed member payments. Through an out-of-court settlement, CASA was awarded \$37,500 in total — \$28,575 in membership fee back-payments after the \$8,925 in legal fees was factored in.

McGill undergraduate students voted to exit CASA in 2005.

Sharma and CASA’s governance



PAU BALITE/THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

**COLD RECEPTION** Delegates at CASA’s AGM discuss the national survey.

officers decided to put the settlement money towards the Canadian Student Survey, which is taking place online this month. Student unions that have membership with CASA and their provincial lobby groups can receive funding from both organizations to participate. Non-CASA members are also allowed to participate, at a fee of \$1,000 per institution.

There are currently 19 schools participating in the survey. The total cost will be \$60,000, including a fixed cost of \$40,000, and a variable cost of \$1,000 per institution.

“I didn’t know there was a settlement before I came here,” said Jack Brown, president of the University of Fraser Valley Student Union Society, to the group of representatives.

“We’ve been having communications issues for the past little while now,” he added during a break from the meeting. His university isn’t participating in the project because British Columbia doesn’t have a provincial lobby organization affiliated with CASA and the University of Fraser Valley doesn’t have room in its budget to pay the fee.

Ella Henry, vice president of education at St. Thomas University’s Students’ Union, said the project has raised questions concerning CASA’s governance structure.

“I think we heard, here, in the plenary, that a lot of schools have questions about whether the national director and governance officers were within their mandate to make that allocation of money,” she said.

St. Thomas didn’t participate in the survey because its research ethics board raised concerns about its lack of scholarly research. Before the university’s student union could put its participation to a vote, though, the project had already been approved, Henry said.

After several student union representatives voiced their concerns over the lack of communication, Sharma said CASA would work on improving the head office’s communication with members.

“Our leadership working group is developing a communications strategy for the organization,” she said. “I think we have a great external communications strategy for responding to the media and government, but I think we need something a little more robust so our leadership group is actually communicating with our members better.”

The provincial lobby organizations partnering with CASA in the survey are the Alliance of Nova Scotia Students Association, the Ontario Undergraduate Students Alliance, and the Council of Alberta University Students.

## Immigrant workers being under-utilized

### McGill professor hints that experience, not degree recognition, can explain job discrimination against overqualified immigrant workers arriving in Canada

JACOB SEREBRIN  
*CUP Quebec Bureau Chief*

MONTREAL (CUP) — Immigrants make less than their Canadian-born counterparts, and are more likely to work at jobs they are overqualified for, according to a new report from Statistics Canada.

However, the study found that these gaps shrink over time, and are felt the strongest by immigrants who have recently arrived in Canada.

Immigrants who had arrived in Canada within the previous five years made on average \$5.04 less per hour than people born in Canada. Overall, first-generation immigrants made an average of \$2.28 less per hour than Canadian-born workers.

Immigrants were also more likely to be overqualified for their jobs, the study found. Forty-two per cent of immigrant workers had received a greater degree of education than would normally be required for their job, compared with 28 per cent of Canadian-born workers.

For new immigrants, the rate was

even higher. Two-thirds of university-educated immigrants who arrived within the previous five years were found to be working at jobs that required less than a degree.

According to Jennifer Hunt, an economics professor at McGill University, the biggest problem is not that degrees aren’t being recognized.

“There’s actually pretty good recognition of foreign education, but the problem is experience,” she said.

Hunt said this explains why immigrants’ wages tend to approach those of Canadian-born workers over time.

“As they gain experience in Canada, their wage goes up,” she said, pointing to another study, released in May, which came to this conclusion.

In that study, University of Toronto economics professor Philip Oreopoulos sent out thousands of fake resumés to online job postings.

He found resumés that only included Canadian experience were over twice as likely to receive a callback as those that only listed experience from China, India, or Pakistan, even if the experience was from a

multinational company.

Oreopoulos also found that where university degrees were obtained, in Canada or abroad, didn’t affect the likelihood of a callback.

The majority of recent immigrants to Canada, who come in under the point system, have a university degree.

Overall, he found that English-sounding names was the biggest factor in determining whether a resumé received a callback.

The Statistics Canada report, released on Monday, used data from Stats Can’s monthly Labour Force Survey in 2008. The study focused on workers between 25 and 54, which the agency describes as “core working age.”

It also found that immigrants were as likely as people born in Canada to have multiple jobs and that there were similar rates of part-time employment.

Thirty-eight per cent of immigrant workers who work part-time were found to want full-time work, compared to 30 per cent of Canadian-born workers.

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## Bully bill shouldn't be pushed around

THE ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION IS currently up in arms over Bill 206, a legislation that could very well take the punishment for bullying out of the hands of educators and leave it to the Alberta government. While it means an increase in red tape for teachers and school administrators, they have little right to complain. Bullying is an ever-present issue, and it clearly hasn't improved much in their hands.

ASBA reps say that the punishment for bullying should depend on the students involved — but why? Every able-minded kid knows that bullying is wrong, so why does one deserve a more mild punishment than the others? At the present time, bullying is going to depend on the school in which it happens and the teacher in charge of dealing with it. There's no way at present to ensure it's being handled with equal levels of seriousness from case to case.

Opposition of the bill must assume that all teachers are equally willing to handle bullying earnestly. But how many of us have witnessed teachers being a little too "buddy-buddy" with the kids responsible for half the teasing? It isn't that rare for the jerk who throws things at the lame kids to high-five the science teacher the next day. Teachers, like most people, develop biases. They can't be treated like insensitive machines and won't always be reliable in punishing the proper people to an appropriate extent.

The bill also promises to ban weapons and drug paraphernalia from schools in addition to handling cases of online bullying. These fall into the category of aspects of the problem that should have been dealt with and properly standardized ages ago. While schools have done just fine in punishing young people for obvious offences like weapons and drug use, we've all heard the stories of schools' inability to patrol and punish online bullying — a fact that cruel-minded kids tend to know and exploit.

It's granted that the present bill isn't perfect — there are flaws in it as with every legislation. The biggest matter that should be dealt with within the bill is the suggested punishment. At present, Bill 206 talks about a special-educational program for bullies without suggesting what sort of form it may have or how it might be funded. It's simply an ill-conceived, bare-bones idea of a punishment that doesn't go far enough. Kids old enough to bully have been told a million times not to, but their skin has gotten thicker, and ultimately sticking them in a classroom outside of school hours will only further agitate them. In the end it's really no better than a regular detention.

That's why I'd like to see these kids serving community service sentences. Preferably in little orange jumpsuits with those pointy sticks for picking up trash, and at a location near their schools. While this may not seem very sincere, there are few things more horrifying to kids than embarrassment. If you want them to take it seriously, we need to enforce it properly and in a matter that will matter to them.

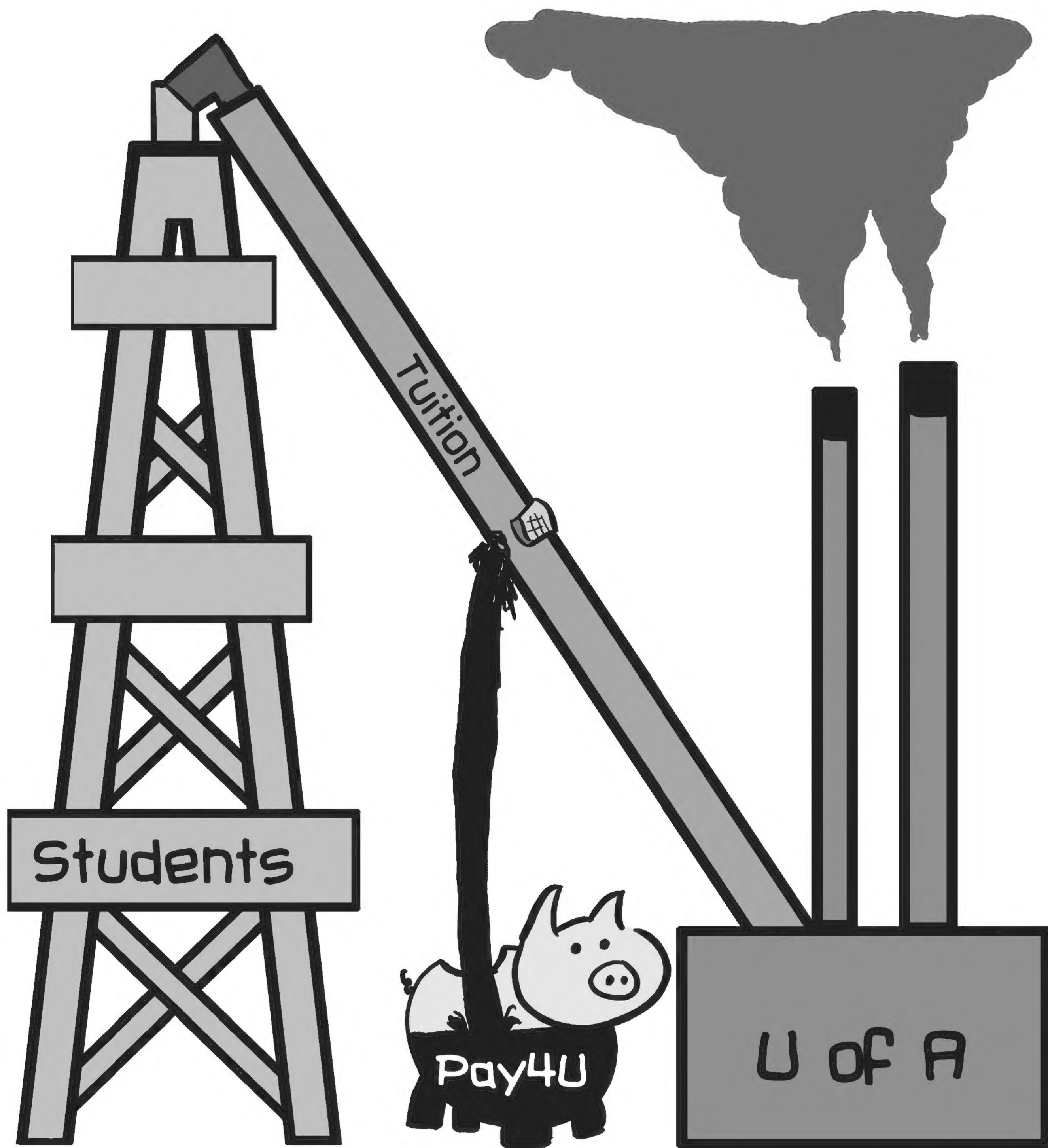
While a legislation would standardize bullying punishments, it should also give it a more serious tone. Kids may be kids, but if a child is knowingly being cruel, it might be more effective to punish them in a more adult manner, and the legislation provides such a solution. The bottom line is that when the schools are examined on an individual level, there's little difference between bullying and plain old harassment, and it's time that we start looking at them the same way. Sugar coating things and claiming every bullying situation is a unique situation isn't going to solve the problem — it'll only slow down the process.

KELSEY TANASIUK  
Design & Production Editor

## Curse you, BioWare, you've ruined my life!

Oh, crap, end of term  
Why did I spend all my time  
Playing *Mass Effect*?

LUCAS WAGNER  
Keeps a stiff upper lip



LANCE MUDRYK

## letters TO THE eds

### Business fires a return volley! Direct hit!

I can only assume from Dillon Gara's "Arts 1" designator ("The Arts vs. Business turf war heats up again" November 24) that he hurls slanderous invective secure in the impetuosity of youthful naiveté. To suggest that Business students have a lock on unethical behavior constitutes a convenient and willful blindness to reality. Criminality and immorality permeate all strata of society regardless of educational background or chosen profession.

We live in an increasingly amoral society where moral relativism is the order of the day. If the ethics oath convinces even a single person to behave ethically, it has served its purpose, and we are all better off for it. That a Bernie Madoff or Jeff Skilling could promulgate massive fraud is a human failing, and it is our responsibility to prevent this from recurring. To suggest otherwise does a disservice to millions of business people who act ethically every day, working hard and trying to make a better life for themselves, their loved ones, and the world.

Gara might also like to consider how he is going to save for his retirement — any CPP he collects will most assuredly not cover his

living expenses. As a result, he will soon realize that he must invest his money in some sort of financial asset to secure his future lifestyle. Would he prefer that his retirement savings be invested in a company that gives him an annual positive return and pays dividends, or one that consistently hemorrhages cash and red ink? His expressed love for non-profits also fails to withstand harsh realities. How does he imagine they fund their operations? From whence does the disposable income appear that kind strangers donate? Surely, not everyone can be on the government dole. Productive members of society who are worried about their bottom lines create the enormous wealth that is funnelled into these non-profits through charitable donations. If not for these "evil and exploitive" businesses, there would be no NPOs to service the poor and needy.

Anti-capitalist rhetoric such as Gara's is the ultimate self-medication. To deny the power of personal incentive is to deny human nature.

YURI S. BRODA  
Business V

### Can they keep up the salvo much longer?

On November 24, I picked up the Gateway, hoping to find something interesting to read. However, what I found was yet another uneducated

Arts student. Dillon Gara, a first-year Arts student, has ridiculously equated business with a violation of ethics. As a Business student and former Arts student, I feel absolutely ashamed and disgusted to see such false accusations made.

Let me explain the concept of business. It is done by two parties who have unsatisfied needs. Given the two parties have the ability to satisfy the need of the other, an exchange takes place. The essence of business lies here. The exchange between these two parties is an agreement, a mutual trust if you will, that unsatisfied needs will be met. Now allow me ask this question: how is the mutual exchange that will satisfy needs and/or wants be a violation of ethics? Is this exchange stealing? Is this exchange robbery? No, it is not. This exchange betters both parties after the exchange. Then why would Gara say that "business [...] is based on a violation of ethics"?

First, Dillon assumes the definition of capitalism is "raking in as much money as possible." However, this is not the definition of capitalism. Capitalism is "an economic and political system characterized by a free market for goods and services and private control of production and consumption" (courtesy of Dictionary.com). On the other hand, Dillon has provided us an excellent definition of greed.

Secondly, Gara assumes that someone must suffer in business. As I have pointed out at the beginning of this response, people will not suffer if proper, ethical business is adhered to. People should be better off in their exchange.

Lastly and most importantly, Gara assumes that business being ethical is a dream. However, the basic definition of business is to better two parties with unsatisfied needs thus very ethical. How then can one say business is "a violation of ethics"?

So to Dillon Gara I say, have fun self-medicating — your idealistic world just popped. Welcome to reality.

GODWIN DOO  
Business I

*Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed. I like to think that it's a red letter day, and I'm in a blue mood, because there might not be any letters for a month. Keep sending them in, though, folks!*

*The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.*

*Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.*



THE BURLAP SACK

Though they don't immediately relate to many of the trials facing Albertans, the Parti Québécois is the thorn in the political side of most western Canadians, not only due to their excessive siphoning of federal taxpayer money, or their egomaniacal desire for distinction over others (read: "National Assembly"), but also due to their constant, irritating demands, and eagerness to play the victim card at the least provocation.

Generations of frustrated westerners, themselves more alienated and politically under-represented on the federal scene, have continually reacted to the separatist threat with feelings of "Please,

just /leave already." But no matter how eager we in the west are to ignore the PQ's whining, as a nation, we must not ignore some of the troubling discrimination that is going on in La Belle Province.

Recently, Canada's Supreme Court upheld a Quebec Court of Appeal ruling that struck down Bill 104, which limited access to English-language schools for the children of immigrants. Effectively, parents were forced to enroll their children in French-language schools even if they would prefer them to learn English — Canada's other official language, in case you forgot.

So immigrant children who were forced out of English schools and into French ones (only to drop out since they didn't understand the language), are still waiting to receive government eligibility to return to their original schools. At this point, this is no longer

a question of language or culture, but of basic human rights and freedoms. The PQ has denied parents the opportunity to raise their children as they choose, simply to reinforce its own political beliefs in "distinctness".

This legislation is just as wrong as if the PQ had banned Muslim women from wearing a *hajib* and forced them to conform to traditional French Canadian values. It is unjust, and we must support the rights of minorities all across our nation, even when the Parti Québécois uses its "victim" status to oppress them.

BRUCE CINNAMON

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.*

Poking the problems of Facebook addiction



TIM SCHNEIDER

As some of you may know, last week was Addictions Awareness Week. Addiction is a very serious issue, and so this week, I want to bring awareness to an addiction that has many young students hooked, especially during exam time. I'm not talking about Ritalin or Adderall — those cravings make sense if you want to do well in school. No, I'm talking about Facebook.

I want to start by giving you all a window into my own battle with this fixation: I tried kicking my habit a few weeks ago, cold turkey. I got through the morning alright, but as the afternoon crept around, I began to feel sick. My hands scratching and beginning to sweat, I knew I needed just a quick fix to get me through the day. Head pounding, I walked through the Rutherford atrium, trying not to betray my sense of urgency and bolted up the stairs to the quiet study on the second floor.

I ducked into the computer lab in the back, pleased to find it empty. It's there that I got my hookup, updating my Facebook status: "Tim Schneider is ... happy :)" I sighed with relief, euphoric as those beautiful little endorphins flooded through my system. After that moment of weakness, I relapsed and I must confess I haven't been able to shake it since. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

"I know it sounds harmless and feels good, but the side effects of Facebook addiction are varied and dangerous. Perhaps most potent are its hallucinogenic and dissociative properties. You may trip out and believe you're a successful farmer, a mob boss, or an insanely wealthy sorority girl."

As the parents of modern students fear all the trouble that we can get into "out there" on the streets, they're ignorant to the danger that lurks on the quietest nights, the ones where you don't go out because you tell everyone you're "studying"—a likely story. There in the solitude of your room, you'll get that hit and be high for hours at a time.

I know it sounds harmless and feels good, but the side effects of Facebook addiction are varied and dangerous. Perhaps most potent are its hallucinogenic and dissociative properties. You may trip out and believe you're a successful farmer, a mob boss, or an insanely wealthy sorority girl. Buoyed by a false sense of self-esteem at how many "friends" you have, I realize it can be hard to tear yourself away. When I come down off my high, I usually realize I just spent the last several hours jerking off my ego all alone in my bedroom, and feel somewhat withdrawn.

While Facebook has its dangerous side effects, much like heroin, it has some value when used correctly in moderation. However, instead of being a powerful medical analgesic, it's a potent social lubricant. I often use it on my phone at parties to find out if the girls I'm talking to are single. It's a real time saver there and, as a bonus, people often think I'm texting so I'm somehow perceived as popular.

In addition, it allows on-again/off-again couples to carefully articulate on their profiles that their relationship is complicated, just so everyone knows — which is a helpful and necessary social distinction. And nothing lets someone know that they're out of your good books like defriending them. This novel technique is currently unsurpassed in its ability to handle such intricately delicate social situations.

But what we all need then is to cut back, especially during exams, perhaps by temporarily disabling our profiles or getting a friend (a real-life one) to monitor our use. We need to create a social and political movement to moderate abuse of Facebook, like cigarettes in the '70s through the '90s. Let's band together and start a revolution. You go create rallies as Facebook events that will spread the word, and I'll be happy to establish a Facebook group for everyone to join. Soon everyone will be invited to what will be the mass breakout from social media that we all so desperately need.

Just don't be surprised when I don't make it to your rally. In all likelihood, I'm probably going to hit "maybe attending" and not show. And then spend the whole time un-tagging photos from parties of my exposed genitals. For some reason there are a lot of those out there.

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Not at all; my faculty wasn't professional enough to get hit (48%)
A bit; I'll have to go easy on my Econ/Design/Nutrition classes (17%)
A lot; my Dentistry degree might bankrupt me (24%)
I just work here; but I'll be sleeping in on my furlough days (11%)

TOTAL RESPONSES: 54

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# What's in a course name? Making class picks by intuition



OPINION  
STAFF

Group  
Commentary

We've come to the end of another term and, as such, have embarked on the time-honoured tradition of lamenting our bumbling actions of the last few months. How long ago was it that the term stretched out before us like a shining beacon, offering untold potential and dreams, only to be dashed against the cold wall of reality and dullness? Though the University offers a bevy of fascinating courses on a variety of stimulating topics, let's be blunt — most of us didn't take any of those.

But just for fun, let's embark on a jaunt through the University calendar with the scholarly minds of *Gateway Opinion* as we speculate on the greatest courses we didn't take — greatest being applied based solely on their name and description, because who has time for any kind of research these days?

**Hannah Cochran**

*FS 371: Contemporary Hollywood*

It's time to cut out the middleman, folks. Ostensibly, I attend this fine institution with the goal of discovering my calling and going on to contribute great things to this great world, and I'll claim that I worked so hard for this place, but when I'm honest with myself, all I've really accomplished this past term is logging an unconscionable amount of hours spent procrastinating, submerging myself in edgy pop culture, magazines and celebrity gossip blogs. Instead of acknowledging this habit as a character flaw, or the profound waste of money it most certainly is, I have decided to take advantage of the system.

Now, I haven't read the course catalogue description of this class, but I assume that's all just empty

marketing anyway. I feel completely prepared to advance in this realm of study, armed with my encyclopedic knowledge of awards show fashion, the front-runners for the villains in the next Batman movie, and all things Megan Fox. I'm second-to-none in the field of the memorization of movie quotations, which I assume will be the largest component in this course. I can even wax rhetorical about the rise and fall of various American starlets.

This course could lead me to a new direction in my own life. Perhaps if I expend the effort to increase my own media recognition, I too will be able to join the ranks of famewhores and delusionals who populate contemporary Hollywood. If that fails, it comes with a backup plan. I mean, I've always wondered where the paparazzi actually come from.

**Bruce Cinnamon**

*C LIT 444: Autobiographical Writing*

Tired of learning too much about the vaunted accomplishments of the long dead and rapidly aging? Looking for a method to effectively communicate your ideas, highlighted by the dramatic back-drop of your very own life? Holding a deep grudge and want to air your dirty laundry? Look no further: Comparative Literature 444 is the class for you.

Throughout the past few months I have been forced to endure long-winded theories by long-deceased people, from B. F. Skinner in Psychology 104, to Émile Durkheim in Sociology 100, to the incomprehensible Immanuel Kant in Philosophy 102. And as I've read their often ridiculous and always periphrastic works, I've wondered why I myself can't write something just as good, if not better.

With the recent publication of Sarah Palin's *Going Rogue: An American Life*, I've come to accept that pretty much anyone can write an autobiography and get it published. And so my quest to make public the intimate details of my life commences! The first step consists of living: done. The second step consists of taking C LIT 444: not yet done.

This fascinating class description reads as follows: "A survey of autobiographical forms from

antiquity to postmodernity and a study of theoretical problems of genre and subjectivity." About as informative as any of the class descriptions, but it seems as though I will still be compelled to read works about other people. Even so, I'm sure I can endure one last term of self-indulgent rhetoric before I get the chance to push some of my own onto an unsuspecting audience. Oh, wait.

**David Johnston**

*MIN E 324: Drilling, Blasting and Explosives*

Take it from me — I'm a fairly even-keeled kinda guy. I try not to lose my temper or go off half-cocked on my nemeses. But in my calmness, I often come across situations when I just want to explode in a fiery blaze of passion and excitement and just freakin' blow up on someone.

Which is why, obviously, it would be so incredibly cool to take a university course dedicated to nothing but detonations and demolition. I'm assuming it's a fully hands-on practical course; how could it not be, with such an awesome title? It's made me think that I need this too — this being, of course, an outlet here on campus to release the Wile E. Coyote buried deep inside my psyche, and if I'd have to become a Mining Engineering student to unearth it, then so be it.

And just think of the potentials — TNT term papers! Mortar midterms! Flash-bang finals! I'm picturing course assignments involving placing nonlethal landmines in various locations around campus, possibly in the path of pompous university administrators, and everyone enjoying a hearty laugh as they explode in showers of confetti or pig intestines or whatever. Seriously, you wouldn't be able to keep them away from the registration list, unless you used cannons in some way, which I'm assuming would be a prerequisite.

I'm sure if I learned more, the course likely wouldn't live up to my lofty expectations. For starters, they probably wouldn't let me blow up my classmates should I have a bad day. But there's always the possibility that the course could

explode in a glorious shower of awesomeness, and I will re-fuse anyone who says otherwise.

**Mike Chafe**

*RLS 101: Life, Leisure and the Pursuit of Happiness*

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not a very happy person. I'm poor, my body omits an everlasting odor of Cheez Whiz, and I spend most of my nights alone in the dark crying myself to sleep while watching the Food Network. Day after day I waste my time learning useless information that just furthers my unhappiness. It's a vicious cycle, just like photosynthesis, but with less chlorophyll — unless that's the stuff they put in Cheez Whiz.

However, I think I've found a solution. Browsing through the course catalogue I came across the department of recreation and leisure studies, more specifically Recreation and Leisure Studies 100: Life, Leisure, and the Pursuit of Happiness. At last, a facet of academia teaching something practical!

The description of this class in the course catalogue is nothing less than riveting. This course will apparently explore such fascinating things as "the relationship between leisure and time, and the characteristics of leisure in modern Canada." Wow. I'm feeling happier already.

However, the most intriguing aspect of this class for me comes from the part of the course description that explains how this class will teach the structure of Canadian recreation and tourism delivery systems. I'm *fascinated* with delivery systems. UPS is my favorite, but FedEx is a close second.

But the most important thing is that somehow all of these valuable lessons will make me happier than pre-war Germany. I can't wait to take this course and finally find the true meaning to happiness. I hope it's Cheez Whiz. That would simplify things.

**Sarah Stead**

*ZOOL 354: Wildlife Disease*

I'm moving into rez. It's pretty much a prerequisite.

## The Gateway is hiring TWO Circulation Public Affairs Liaisons (Circulation PALs) to begin in January.

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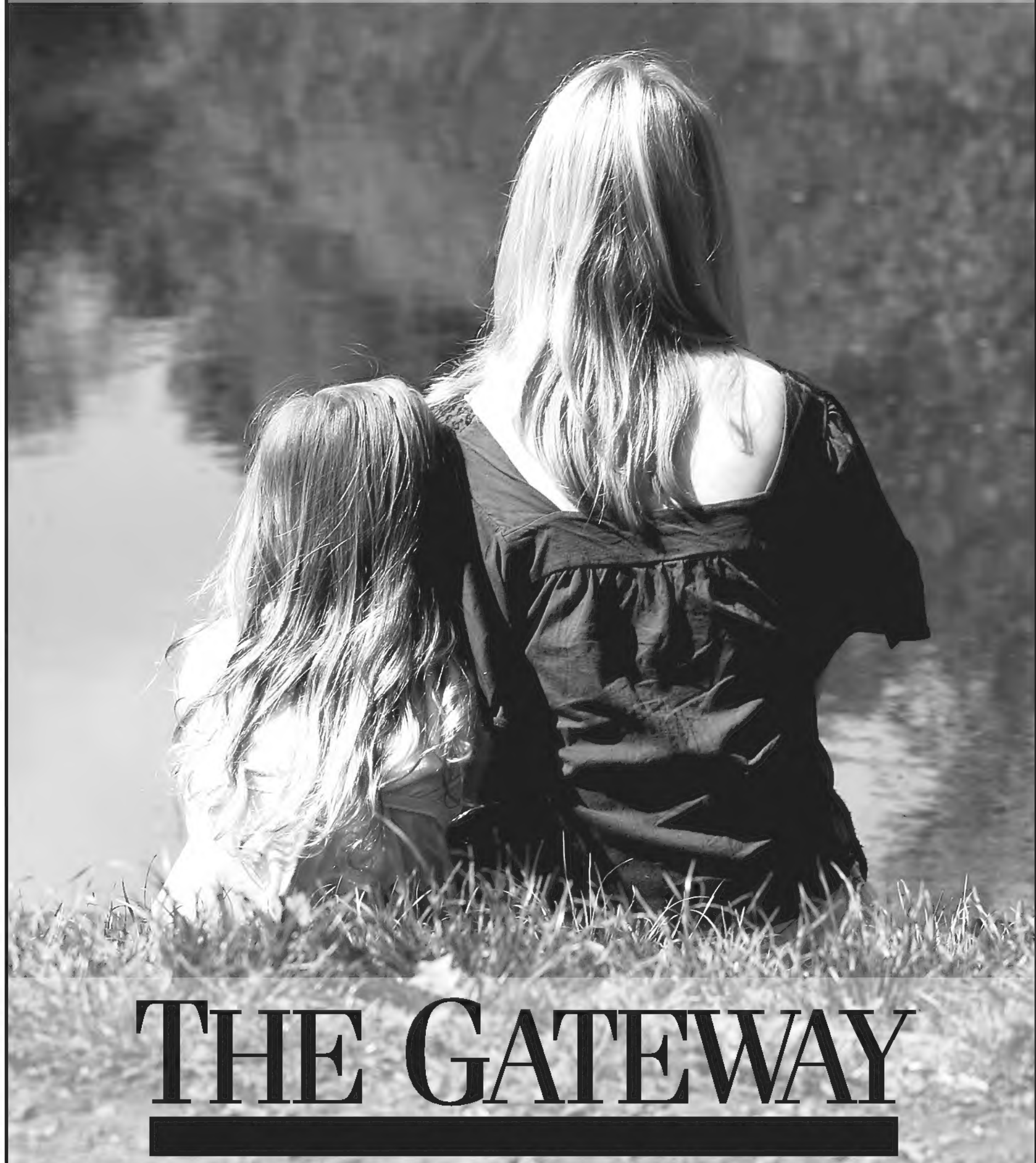
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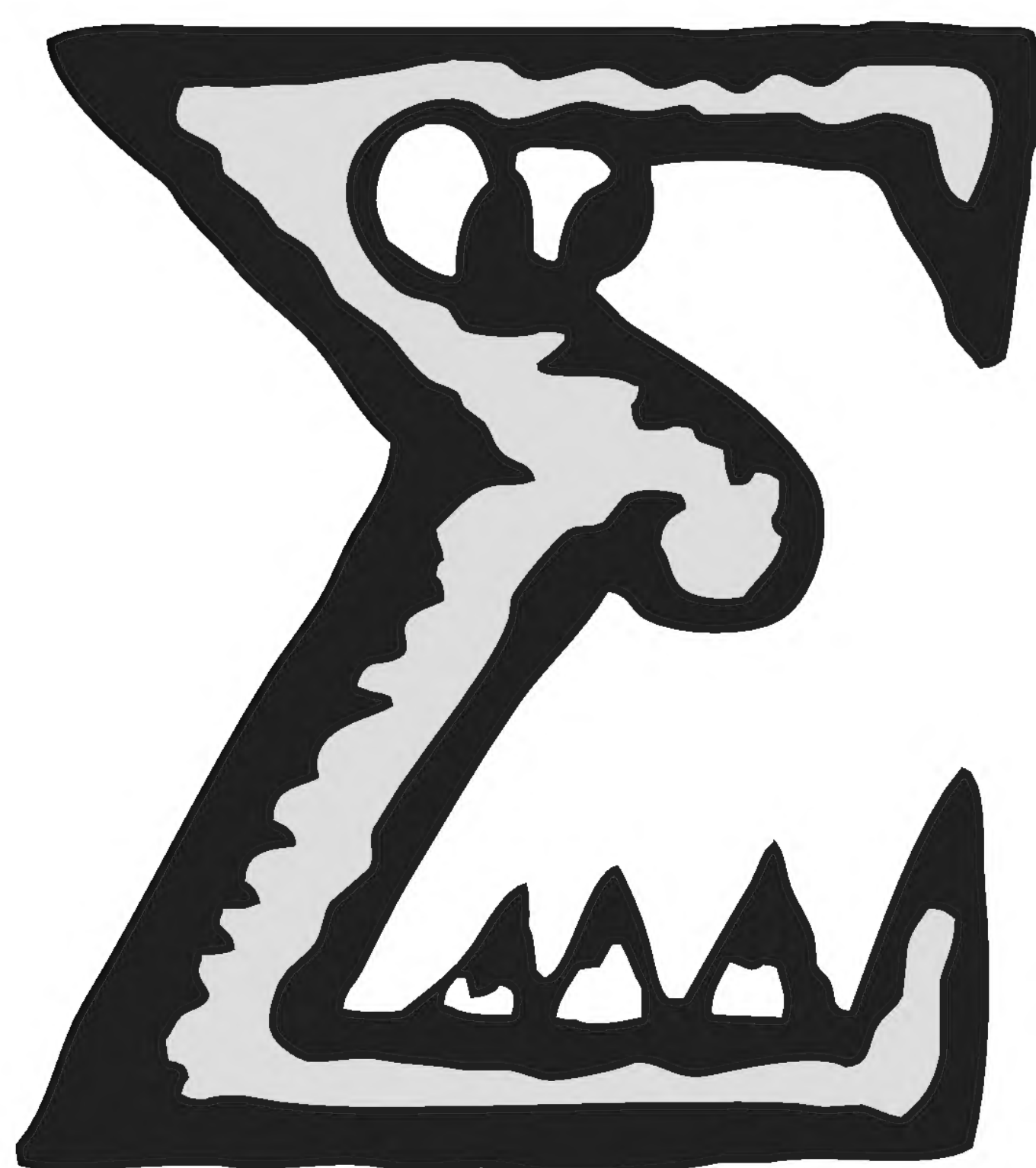
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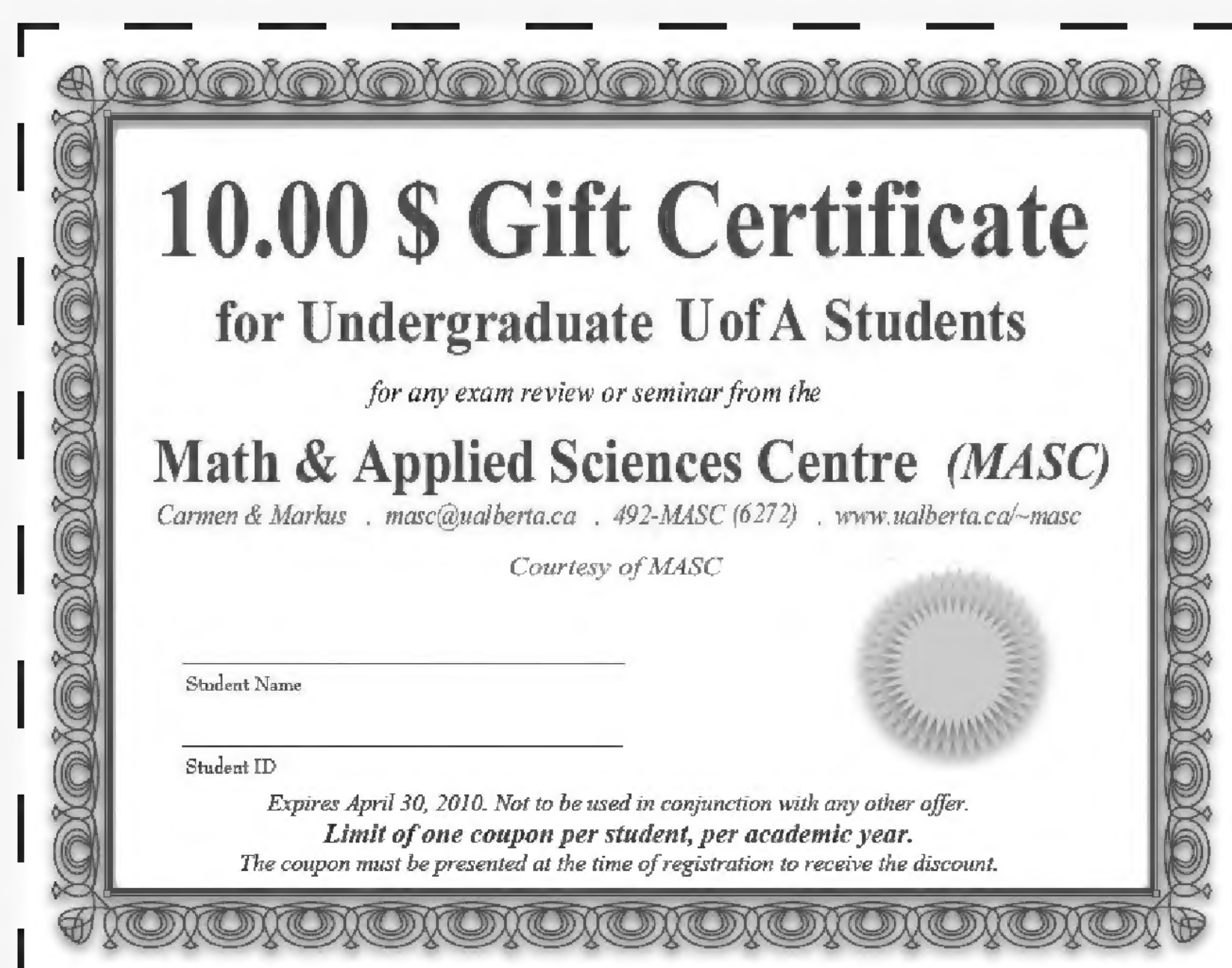
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## social intercourse

### Hatebreed

With *Cannibal Corpse*, *Unearth*, *Born of Osiris*, and *Hate Eternal*  
Edmonton Event Centre (2556 8882-170 St.)  
Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m.  
\$32 at ticketmaster.ca

Are you stressed out about final exams? Does a D+ on that term paper make you angry? Do the large crowds and continuous Christmas music in malls leave you wanting to scream at anyone and everyone? Head out for a therapeutic night of death-metal and hardcore hosted by the almighty Hatebreed. If the Decimation of the Nation Tour appeals to your rising levels of angst, this may be the best way to blow off some steam while screaming at the top of your lungs. This show promises to be brutal, so, if you faint at the sight of blood, you may want to wait for Elton John to come back to town.

### Misfits

With *No Problem*  
Wednesday, December 9 at 9 p.m.  
New City Suburbs (10081 Jasper Ave.)  
\$40 at New City, Freecloud, Megatunes, and Blackbyrd

Nothing quite says “Christmas” likes songs about monsters. While nobody is going to argue the fact that Danzig was essential to the ideal lineup, swallow your pride and sing along to a night full of classic punk songs from the Misfits. Jerry Only is the punk rock Gene Simmons, so be sure to bring enough cash to buy branded underwear, shot glasses, toques, guitar picks, etc. Warning to *Twilight* fans: this is going to be scary. Real monsters don’t sparkle!

### Screeching Weasel

With *Old Wives* and *The Spin-Offs*  
Friday, December 11 at 7 p.m.  
New City Likwid Lounge  
\$40 at New City, Freecloud, Megatunes, and Blackbyrd

Everybody said that they would never reunite, but they did. Special thanks go out to New City, who went out of their way to bring these punks in for their only Canadian show. You may ask yourself: who are these strapping young fellows? Have you ever heard of a band called the Ramones? Well, most of them are dead. The next best thing is the Weasel, so do yourself a favour and check out your new favourite punk band blast through tunes like “Jeannie’s Got A Problem With Her Uterus” and “I Wanna Be A Homosexual.” They’re sure to have the most sedate fan pogo-ing and singing along to catchy choruses by the end of the night.

### The Holidays

All December long

In case anyone forgot, the holiday season is fast approaching. We won’t mention the C-word out of respect for those who don’t celebrate that specific event. You don’t need me to tell you what to do in the city. It’s a great time of year to catch up with old friends and family that you’ve been neglecting all year. Avoid malls at all costs, and spend as much time outdoors as possible before it gets really cold. Take a beautiful girl skating, fellas — it always looks super romantic in every movie set in New York City in the winter. It’s a wonderful excuse to forget the stress of the year and take time out to enjoy yourself. Drink copious amounts of hot chocolate, preferably with little marshmallows. I personally enjoy sitting around a campfire while I drink mine with friends, usually after a long day of horseback riding through the beautiful river valley back home. Have wonderful holidays, dear readers, and I will see you all again in the depths of the dark winter we know as an Albertan January.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Jonn Who?

## Peter Jackson takes *Lovely* break from Tolkien



## filmreview

### The Lovely Bones

Novel by Alice Sebold  
Directed by Peter Jackson  
Starring Mark Wahlberg, Rachel Weisz, Susan Sarandon, and Saoirse Ronan  
Opens December 11

SARAH STEAD  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

If hobbits and orcs aren’t the kind of characters you prefer to cozy up to for a few hours in a movie theatre, then it may come as a surprise that Peter Jackson’s latest film leaves those mythical creatures behind. Although the visionary director behind bringing J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* trilogy to the big screen is in the process of writing a screenplay for *The Hobbit*, for the past two years he’s been largely absorbed with bringing Alice Sebold’s best-selling novel *The Lovely Bones* to life.

“[After] doing *Lord of the Rings* and *King Kong* so close together, I wouldn’t say I was tired of big-budget fantasy films, but I certainly felt that I had to have a break from those type of films. The *Lovely Bones* was a project that we partly chose because it was so different [...] As you read a well-written book, you start imagining what these people look like, and you imagine the locations and the action, and before too long, you’ve got this little movie playing in your head. And then it doesn’t take much for me to get excited about the little movie that’s being inspired by the words in the book,” Jackson says.

The film centres around Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan), a 14-year-old girl who is raped and murdered after being lured into an underground den by a shady neighbour. Her spirit continues to exist in a special, in-between world, from which she watches her family, hoping to help them find the pieces to punish her killer. At first glance, the only two things *The Lovely Bones* and the *LOTR* franchise would seem to have in common is that they

were originally novels, but according to Jackson, the two projects are a lot more alike than it seems.

“I always make the movies that I’d want to watch,” he says simply. “The movies that I like watching are escapist movies [...] I have no interest in seeing movies about people like me or you, or people that have regular jobs, or live a regular life — those things don’t interest me [...] I like being swept away into an adventure that I know I’m never going to have in my real life, seeing and meeting characters that I’m never going to meet, because they’re so outrageous, or things that happen on screen, and they’re never going to be part of my real life.”

**“The movies that I like watching are escapist movies [...] I have no interest in seeing movies about people like me or you, or people that have regular jobs, or live a regular life.”**

PETER JACKSON  
DIRECTOR, *THE LOVELY BONES*

In addition to creating the fantastical world that Susie exists in for much of the film, Jackson had questions about mortality on his mind as well during production. While he’s hesitant to offer his personal outlook on the afterlife, the power to play with the possibilities of the soul’s final destination was “one of the attractive things about *The Lovely Bones*.”

“That’s obviously a question that we all wonder about. It’s in the back of everybody’s mind, especially if you lose people who are close to you. You wonder what’s happened to them, and [if] they’re still around, and can they see you and hear you? All those sorts of questions are fascinating questions, and they’re emotional questions,” Jackson says.

In a sense, Jackson also got to play God as he decided during the writing of the screenplay which

of Sebold’s characters would be coming to life on screen, and which would be staying between the pages of her novel. Some of the cuts had to happen for the simple reason that it wasn’t feasible to make a five-hour-long film, but Jackson mourned the loss of those characters, scenes, and subtleties all the same.

“I’m realizing that when you adapt a book, you can only really put half the book into the film,” he sighs. “[There are] passages of the book that you really liked, that you assumed you’d put into the movie, but you suddenly haven’t got time for them. [It’s difficult] to say goodbye to characters and to scenes that you were looking forward to doing.”

Despite losing some characters that Jackson was looking forward to meeting, he glows when he talks about the actors who played the characters he did keep, confessing that after working with Mike Imperioli, he watched every episode of *The Sopranos* in a span of three weeks. And when it comes to Saoirse Ronan, who Jackson cast based solely on her audition tape, he makes no qualms about predicting the youngster’s future career trajectory.

“She’s an Irish actress, but she puts on a perfect American accent,” Jackson laughs. “She was 13 years old, I think, when we first met her, and cast her in the film [...] Acting is never about pretending. It’s about making it real. And when she’s crying on screen, she’s really crying, because she’s thinking about things that are making her cry [...] I think she’s going to have a terrific career. She reminds me of a young Cate Blanchett, actually.”

Jackson also shares that he has a daughter close in age to Ronan, and that despite some of the violent themes, making a film that he could share with his daughter was a priority.

“We felt a responsibility to make it real, but [we didn’t] want to make it gratuitous or explicit. The film’s about a murder, but we don’t show the murder on screen. We didn’t want to do that, because we didn’t want that to be the defining moment of the film. We wanted Susie’s murder [to be] the catalyst that starts our story going. But it’s not a film about her murder. It’s a film about what happens after.”



# Gwar confesses lust for Chad Kroeger, Fergie, and space

## musicpreview

### Gwar

With *Job for a Cowboy* and *The Red Chord*

Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.

Edmonton Event Centre

(8882-170 St.)

\$32 at ticketmaster.ca

JOHN KMECH

Special Gwar Correspondent

When Gwar's latest album, *Lust in Space*, opened at number 96 on the Billboard Top 200 Music Charts back in August, giving them their greatest debut ever, there was no doubt that someone had to pay — particularly someone higher on the charts.

"You humans just don't know what the fuck is going on. How could you let Gwar languish at 96 and reward the Black Eyed Peas?" yells Oderus Urungus, the band's monstrous and audibly-perturbed vocalist and frontman.

"Well, I mean, Fergie is kind of hot. But I can't get my hands on her. That's the one thing about raping a celebrity — you have to show up where they're at. That's why they're constantly changing the locations of where they're shooting their videos."

There truly are no bounds when Oderus wants to get a little love-drunk.



"I would like to see her humps, her sexy lady humps on my mantle infested with maggots. That would be a better place for them. I'd like to make her humps my humps, and I'd like to give her humps the mumps."

Though they've been focusing on it no more than usual, the band's insatiable lust has been working in their favour recently. Prior to their album release, the five self-proclaimed gods of metal have been

pounding the pavement, visiting the San Diego Comic Con, the Juggalo festival, and playing a show in Wacken, Germany. As Oderus put it, "we're just whacking it all over the fucking world!"

Then *Lust in Space* came out, which thrust the notorious intergalactic vulgar-ians, who hail from Virginia, back into the national spotlight. This was a double-edged sword though, as the album details the band's frantic attempts to break off the

shackles and leave our worthless planet, only to be thwarted by their archnemesis Cardinal Syn, who was presumed dead after Gwar's 1995 album *Ragnarök*. In this case, and possibly for the first time in Gwar's history, their lust was not for sex.

"It was more of our lust to be in space. Gwar has finally escaped this fucking miserable planet after 25 years of being stuck here, with only you — you offspring of apes, you retarded children of ours —

for company," Urungus explains. "Then we finally get to outer space, only to find out that Cardinal Syn has conquered the entire universe. The only place he has yet to conquer is Planet Earth. So we've got to go back to the place we swore to destroy to defend it against Cardinal Syn. Because if Cardinal Syn conquers it, there will be no metal. There will be no strip clubs. And there will be no crack cocaine. And these are not things we can allow to happen. If Cardinal Syn conquers Earth, crack will be wiped out. A world without crack is a world not worth living in. So get down to the show and bring a weapon of sorts. Fight for your fucking race."

It's a testament to Gwar's universal empathy that they're willing to go on yet another national tour, spraying their fans with all types of bodily fluids for the purpose of saving humankind — even if our race includes a lot of bad musicians. But they do kind of owe us. After all, *Homo sapiens* did put them back on the top of the charts, sort of.

"We're right up there with Nickelback, except they sell like 10 million records and we sell like eight," Urungus says. "Besides that, we're exactly like them, and I wonder sometimes why we can't do a tour with them. We'd party with Nickelback, and the Jonas Brothers, and that Ciley Myrus bitch. You know, the one with the corn teeth."



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# It Might Get Loud is worth the noise

## filmreview

### It Might Get Loud

Directed by Davis Guggenheim  
Starring Jimmy Page, The Edge, and Jack White  
Princess Theatre (10337-82 Ave.)  
Opens November 27

CHRIS SZOTT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When a film's sole purpose is to document the influence of the electric guitar in the history of music, it's natural to be hesitant towards such an idea. With so many musical genres, it's hard to even fathom the impact a single instrument has had. More importantly, it addresses an absurdly brilliant question: what would happen if three of the most prominent guitarists of the past few decades were put in the same room to educate each other on the significance the coveted axe has played for them?

*It Might Get Loud* answers that very question, putting Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin and The Yardbirds), The Edge (U2), and Jack White (The White Stripes, The Raconteurs, and The Dead Weather) in a single room, with nothing but a few couches and their guitars. The magic that unfolds is quite unique for any audience member, as it provides a personal insight into the minds of these musical geniuses who discuss everything from the first time they picked up a guitar, to their musical influences growing up, even to the makings of their most popular songs.

Instead of filming it as a basic Q&A session, director Davis Guggenheim intertwines the filmed meet-up with



intimate footage of each musician giving a personal tour of their musical journey. The documentary itself travels all over the world, filming The Edge in his hometown of Dublin, Ireland as he takes us on a tour of the old school where he first met his fellow bandmates, and to Franklin, Tennessee where Jack White "teaches" his nine-year-old self how to pick up women. The greatest moment, however, is watching Jimmy Page play air guitar to Link Wray's "Rumble," at his home in London, England.

What was most intriguing, other than the fact that we're getting an extremely rare behind-the-scenes look at the worlds of these musical idols, is the simplicity, honesty, and passion that emanates from these men. Instead of being complete egomaniacs, it's clear that each of them is just a humble human being trying to have fun, while contributing, in a positive light, to the reputation of the guitar.

In a world today where so much of our music is formulaic and unoriginal,

released by "musicians" who don't write their own music, don't play any "real" instruments, or, at the very least, can't sing without the help of Auto-Tune, it's refreshing to watch a film that brings us all back to the glory days when real rock and roll bands like Led Zeppelin ruled the world. The impact that those bands have had on aspiring artists, let alone entire generations, proves that so much of the music heard today is so over-produced and sugar-coated by huge money-hungry record labels, and that they will never have the same impact that bands such as Zeppelin and U2 have had. Even Jack White's projects have exploded into world-wide sensations that just keep getting better and better.

Anyone who is a musician — hell, anyone who listens to music of any kind — should go out of their way to see this inspirational film. It will open your eyes and your ears to the hard work and musical brilliance that these real musicians possess, and the lack thereof in today's mainstream music.

# The Escape from obscurity

## musicpreview

### Mapping the Escape

With *On the Sidewalk Bleeding*, *The Skylife*, and *Maryland*  
Friday, November 27 at 8 p.m.  
Pawn Shop (10551-82 Ave.)  
\$5 at the door

KEVIN LEE PINKOSKI  
Arts & Entertainment Writer



Excited to be a band, to have a new album out, to be on tour, and to be playing their hometown Edmonton this Friday, Mapping the Escape is a group that seems to be perfectly pleased by the position they've found themselves in.

And the band has good reason behind their positivity. Formed by lead singer Thad Combs, guitarists Clarke Wiebe and Brad Simmons, bassist Pat Brennan, and drummer Darren Brown, the combined talent of the group has managed to find a quick level of local success. Winning this month's "Sonic Band of the Month" competition would come as one of the group's current highlights.

Mapping the Escape's new album, *In Strange Places*, has been two years in the works since the band's formation in 2006. Created on what Wiebe defines as "a combination of the musical styles and influences of every band member," the album covers a variety of sounds, making the album both interesting and surprising. Mapping the Escape is trying to be more than a simple "one-hit" sound band, and their album shows that they are willing to experiment. Wiebe says that the group's success is due in large part to vocalist Thad Combs, who moved from Kelowna to join the band,

and "rewrote melodies and lyrics so that they suited a wider appeal."

Their current tour has taken them through Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Wiebe elaborates on the reason their outlook is so positive, claiming how they're surprised by how "wide of an audience responds positively to their work" no matter where they are. Mapping the Escape attributes not only their success, but their potential to the commitment that they have developed as a group. Wiebe reminds his audiences that "this is not an easy thing to do."

"[We're] unwilling to sacrifice what [we're] doing in the limited time that we have to do it. We really want to stand out," Wiebe adds.

This is what drove them to self-produce *In Strange Places* so that they could have complete creative control.

"[We didn't want] someone else telling us what to do," Wiebe says bluntly. "[We wanted] to go at our own pace [and have] room to breathe."

Mapping the Escape proves to be a completely optimistic band. Taken by their recent success, and their positive response to both praise and criticism, the band definitely is confident in what they're doing.

"We need to maintain our constant learning process," Wiebe finishes.

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# Goodnight Desdemona takes silly spin on Shakespeare

## theatrepreview

### Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)

Written by Ann-Marie MacDonald  
Directed by Marianne Copithorne  
Starring Andrea Jorawsky, Robert Markus,  
Karyn Mott, Darren Paul, Tatyana Rac, and  
Sarah Sharkey  
Runs November 26–December 5. No show  
Sunday.  
\$5–20 at the Timms box office or at  
www.tixonthesquare.ca

BRYAN SAUNDERS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

What would happen if two of Shakespeare's most well-known tragedies, *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*, were rewritten as comedies? Perhaps they were even intended to be comedies all along!

This concept is the doctoral thesis of PhD student Constance Ledbelly — one of the characters in Ann-Marie MacDonald's play *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* — but she's struggling to find the evidence to prove it. That is, until she tumbles down, down, down into a wastebasket and finds herself magically dropped into *Othello*'s Cyprus and, later, into *Romeo and Juliet*'s Verona. In quick time, Constance bumps into the kooky characters from these plays and support for her theory starts to pile up.

According to Karyn Mott (Juliet), audiences will be rolling out of their seats with laughter when they see how some of Shakespeare's most well-known characters have been transformed.

"They're heightened to a different extent

than they are in the original play," she laughs, pointing out that the character archetypes aren't really "transformed," *per se*, just exaggerated to the point of ridiculousness.

Juliet, for example, becomes just your stereotypical melodramatic 14-year-old girl, where every tiny decision is live-or-die — more often the latter, as it turns out.

"Juliet tries to kill herself a lot," Mott deadpans. "She tries real hard."

Sarah Sharkey, who's making her Studio Theatre debut in the role of Desdemona, notes that her character is the opposite.

"My archetype is a raging, bullish, warrior princess," she chuckles.

"Another interesting thing is that in *Othello* and in *Romeo and Juliet*, our two characters would never meet," Mott points out. "And, in this play, [...] our archetypes go head-to-head."

The result, of course, of two over-the-top characters meeting is something even more over-the-top, but Sharkey says the production manages to walk the line between being a satire and being a valentine.

"I think it's very much both," she says. "I mean, to make fun of something is quite endearing. People love to laugh. So, to parody something is essentially to love it, to give it an homage — it's kind of like a roast."

"Our goal was to make this the funniest journey we possibly could," Sharkey continues. "So, anyone who will sit down and watch it will enjoy the pure comedy of it all: there are SNL kind of moments; there are YouTube comedy clip moments[...] There are also these elements of *Die Hard*: It's very fast-paced; there's a lot of action and stage fighting to it."

"And there are a lot of surprises," Mott offers.

"Yes, be prepared for surprises," Sharkey menaces, before breaking down into laughter.



AARON YEO

# Community the cornerstone of The Hidden Cameras

## musicpreview

### The Hidden Cameras

With Gentlemen Reg  
Friday, November 27 at 8 p.m.  
Avenue Theatre (9030-118 Ave.)  
\$18–20.50 at Blackbyrd,  
Ticketmaster, and Megatunes

JANNA YING DENG  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

For years this eclectic band has been rising through the ranks in the music industry. But, with music that defies any attempt to limit it to conventional styles, The Hidden Cameras wide repertoire of orchestral, vocal, rock, and pop elements seamlessly defeats banal terms such as "indie." The band's musical director and composer, Joel Gibb, aids us in defining their new album, *Origin: Orphan*, without using that ambiguous I-word.

"On this new record, each new song can be described in its own way. It is very difficult to describe The Hidden Cameras in one way, but I will say it is very melody-driven, with a lot of harmony, song structure, vocal, and orchestral elements," Gibb reflects.

As for the disc's title track, Gibb contends that "it's evocative of a lot of things."

"When I think of origin, I think of the origin of mankind. I think it creates all sorts of images. I wouldn't want to say something to limit it. The song has all sorts of possibilities. In a way, it all says we come from one thing," he muses.

In effect, The Hidden Cameras' music is defined by limitless possibilities. Gibb's love of all sorts of music and influence are present in every note.

"I would say life experience is the biggest influence; music you like, but



also music you don't like is part of your surroundings. Sometimes a melody is something that I just hear in the background subconsciously. I also grew up going to church all the time. It's not an influence I chose to be subjected to, but it's there," Gibb shares.

"[There are] so many different ways of interpreting what musical influence means. I think it would be very superficial to just list off bands I like, which is what most people want to know."

This diversity leads The Hidden Cameras to be quite the surprise at every concert — not only because of their music, but a variety of artistic gags. Blindfolded musicians, go-go dancers, and chapel choirs are some of

the ways The Hidden Cameras turn a show into a performance. All of these elements Gibb uses to encourage "the band to not just be a band, but performers putting on a show. I want the audience to be able to react to things, be part of the show."

Audience participation ranks highly on Gibb's list as one of the highlights he remembers from tours.

"In a way, that is what tours are about — meeting people, interacting with people, and collaborating with people. That is what makes touring really special," he says.

Gibb, with typical modesty, would rather let audiences interpret his music with freedom than influence

them with his opinion. His modesty is demonstrated by his refusal to take sole credit as singer, guitar player, and artistic director of all The Hidden Cameras' songs. In response to those who might classify the band as Gibb's brainchild, he insists that "to call it a solo project would not be accurate because this is a big band, a large community."

And like any community, Gibb's is a complex one. But however The Hidden Cameras are defined, they deserve a definition greater than the nondescript "indie-pop" label often attributed to them — a definition that's unique for each listener to discover for him- or herself.



## albumreview

### Goodbye Beatdown Whatchagwando?

MELISSA BENTZ  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Goodbye Beatdown's latest album *Whatchagwando?* is fun — that actually sums up most of what I have to say about this CD. This Vancouver band has created an upbeat combination of reggae, rock, and hip-hop for themselves that makes for an awesome party mix — good beats, good melody, plenty of variety, and a sound that doesn't get old too fast.

The CD opens with "The Grudge," a solid entry with decent lyrics for those who care to listen to them, and plenty of drum and guitar for those who don't. Its title track "Whatchagwando" is probably the most reggae-influenced, with bouncy melody and lively rhythm.

For the most part, all of the tracks segue smoothly together. The end piece, "Dizzy\* Duz-It," is a rather abrupt change in style to straight rapping, and is a bit jarring as a result, but manages nonetheless to find its own place on this album.

The only thing about this CD I'm going to complain about is the length. It only packs five full-length tracks alongside a few 30-second/one-minute shorts. Only 17 minutes of music just isn't enough for an entire CD release. Maybe size doesn't matter, but no one hands out prizes for finishing too soon.





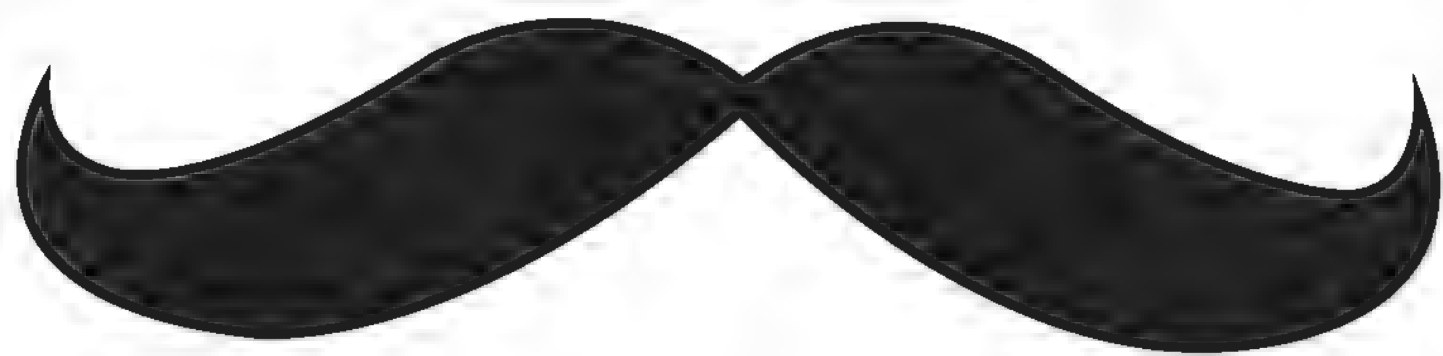
So, online wizard Lucas Wagner thinks he can just waltz in and start running smear campaigns against opinion magnate David Johnston and Nick "I actually have a moustache, and this is why I'm managing editor" Frost.

## Balderdash!

If you, the vigilant reader, would like to see justice prevail in this year's final three, your only option is to vote for for either Mr. Frost or Mr. Johnston.

And by that, we really mean "your only option is to vote for Mr. Frost".

[www.thegatewayonline.ca/moustache](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/moustache)



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### albumreview

**Wolfmother**  
*Cosmic Egg*  
Modular Records

NICK FROST  
Managing Editor

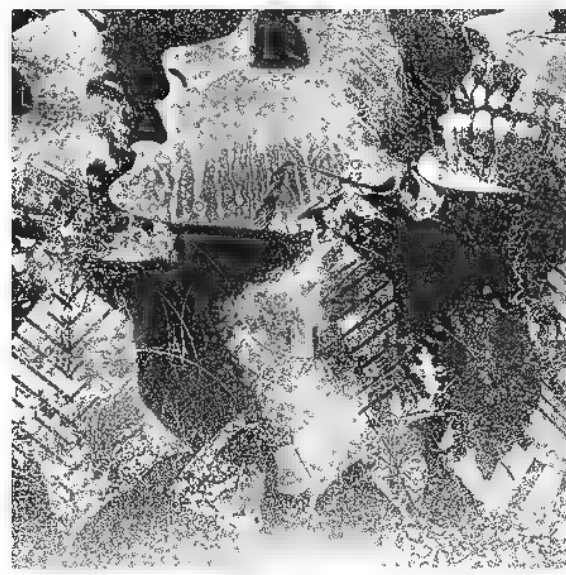
When two of the founding members of Australian rock trio Wolfmother abandoned ship in August 2008, leaving lead singer Andrew Stockdale and a small collection of new material mired in uncertainty, many wondered not only about the future of the group, but when said material would see the light of day. Nearly 15 months after the setback, Wolfmother is pressing on with a new lineup, and have finally released their second album, *Cosmic Egg*.

As was the case with their eponymous debut album, the band has taken a trip back to days of '70s psychedelia, tapping into the sounds of slow-burning stoner rock and adding their own modern twist. However, unlike *Wolfmother* — which served as a wonderfully crafted throwback to groups like Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin — this latest release has unfortunately overdosed a little bit on the sounds of present-day rock, taking on more of a polished, radio-friendly,

modern-rock vibe at times.

Tracks like the first single "New Moon Rising" and "10,000 Feet," while still listenable, detract from the sort of classic rock feel that one would expect upon purchasing the album. "Far Away," which easily serves as the weakest track on the album, takes too much of an emo turn, to the point that the song would almost be more fitting coming out of the Bravery's *The Sun and the Moon*.

With that in mind, *Cosmic Egg* is still the type of album that can grow on you. Lyrics of mythical creatures and kingdoms, coupled with Stockdale's recognizable wailing (which comes across as a strange fusion of Robert Plant and Jack White), help the album retain some of Wolfmother's better qualities, while serving as a reminder of how much better the first album was.



### albumreview

**Converge**  
*Axe to Fall*  
Epitaph Records

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Fans of Converge have long lauded their 2001 album *Jane Doe* as one of the best metalcore albums ever released. Eight years later, the band has released an album that not only lives up to these lofty expectations, but exceeds them with an album that delivers a brutal

aural curbstomp to critics.

On past albums, they've experimented with different sounds, all of which are brought together in one solid package here. Their roots in hardcore are represented on a couple of tracks, while also giving nods to musicians as diverse as

Slayer and Tom Waits (on the sublime "Cruel Bloom"). Judging from the long list of guest musicians, the band has a lot of friends; most notably members of Hatebreed, Neurosis, and kindred experimental metalheads Cave In.

While creating a loud, fast, metal album, Converge have simultaneously raised the bar for their peers by stylistically crossing the boundaries of the genre. On *Axe to Fall*, lead vocalist Jacob Bannon screams songs of sorrow and hopelessness in a world gone dark, backing his lyrics with sinister album artwork. As you unfold the album, the words you read effectively sum up the tone of the album: "We may get better, we won't get well."



### albumbattle

**The Johnstones**  
*Can't Be Trusted*  
Stomp Records

VS

**Parlour Steps**  
*The Hidden Names*  
Nine Mile Records



DAVID JOHNSTON  
Opinion Editor

*The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!*

#### Opening Hook

**The Johnstones:** "Aren't we just such Ska-punk-rebels? Aren't we? Aren't we? You're not paying attention to us!"

**Parlour Steps:** Canadian Indie-folk Group 334B — Three Male, Two Female.

**Advantage:** I feel like I've seen these two archetypes so much recently, so we'll replace this category with a fill-in-the-blank.

**"This Band Sounds Like The Love Child Of Panic! At The Disco And ..."**

**TJ:** Hedley

**PS:** K.T. Tunstall

**Advantage:** Steps. Easily. Both bands have that weird attention-grabbing-jukebox feel that PatD has become known for, but PS find a way to evolve their own sound from it. On the flipside, Johnstones frontman Ryan Long has that identical nasal quality to Jacob Hoggard, in that both attempt to project an absurd quantity of pent-up rage through their noses when singing, possibly in an effort to disguise the incomprehensible lyrics.

#### Most Egregious F-bomb

**TJ:** There could be some words in the title track, "Can't Be Trusted," that aren't expletives, but Long's delivery really does make it impossible to determine what they are. Honestly, Long's vocals make

it impossible to determine whether he's actually singing or just reciting the Constitution. Oh, and the song's theme appears to be "I am an asshole." Alright then.

**PS:** "Ring That Bell," where singer Caleb Stull drops one about midway through in such a tasteful manner that leaves you wondering whether he actually swore or if that was just a weird earwax reverberation in your head.

**Advantage:** Parlour Steps, for correctly understanding the concept of shock value.

#### Best Use Of Pounding Pianos

**TJ:** "What's Your Story," opens the album with a bang, but Long's nasal stylings proceed to completely obliterate the beautifully framed song. The man sounds like a *Sesame Street* flu victim — please stop him.

**PS:** "Miraculous," which has a better chorus than the rest of the song, unfortunately. However, Alison Maira's effusive keyboarding keeps the whole thing wonderfully grounded.

**Advantage:** Hopefully, the Johnstones will pick up a point sometime. Perhaps when they boot Long. Another one for Steps.

#### Best Sequence Not Actually Involving Singing

**TJ:** "What Are You Drinking?" is the best of four or five short little recorded-conversation interludes to serve as introductions to the songs. I believe it's an argument/conversation in a bar that leads to a random hook-up — it's surprisingly charming and, sadly, the best track on the disc.

**PS:** The last two minutes of "Bad Math,"

where the group tosses around a simple eight-note scale in a musical game of chicken, each voice and instrument attempting to top the one before it. Absolutely lovely.

**Advantage:** Steps. They have fun and reflect it in their music; the Johnstones are desperately loud in attempting to prove how much fun they're having in their ska-based-stylings. Guess which one of these makes for a good album?

#### Cover Art Metaphor

**TJ:** The five members of the band, all wearing slutty fireman outfits, glaring at the camera with expressions ranging from "This is mildly demeaning," to "Wait, this is the GQ shoot, right?" to "Hell yes, I'm on an album cover!" Three guesses as to who that last one is.

**PS:** The moon. It's blue. That's about it. Sure, if you open up the album, you see the band decked out in business casual, but the cover's all about the moon.

**Advantage:** Meh. Johnstones are mildly idiotic, but they've at least got something going on there.

#### Verdict

This is no contest — even with the two-point advantages the Johnstones get for having a similar name to the reviewer, Parlour Steps easily stomps them into the ground under their immaculately-laced black loafers. The Johnstone's will provide a quick flash-in-the-pan; the Steps will outlast them to such an insane degree that it's not even funny. And for their part, the Steps aren't perfect, with Stull's voice getting drowned out by the orchestrals once too often, but they're intriguing and listenable, and that's enough to handily win this bout.





PETE YEE

# Basketball squads looking to tame Huskies at home

**Pandas welcome another tough team from the Wheat Province**

EMERSON CSORBA  
Sports Staff

Following two losses to number-three ranked Regina, the Pandas basketball team now sits at 5-3 on the regular season. In what were two back-and-forth games, the number-nine ranked Pandas came out on the wrong side of each contest, and will be looking to regroup this weekend at home against the Saskatchewan Huskies.

The Huskies and Pandas match up very evenly, as both teams sit a game back of first-place Regina in the Canada West's Prairie Division.

Saskatchewan and Alberta sit second and third respectively in the conference in scoring margin, with the Huskies averaging 11.3 points more per game than their opponents, while the Pandas average 8.6 points.

In game two against Regina last weekend, the Pandas took a decisive 49-35 lead into half, but allowed the Cougars to outscore them 45-19 in the second frame. The ability to close out games is something the Pandas will be looking to work on against Saskatchewan.

"We shot the ball well, but then Regina started playing better and we couldn't match their play in the second half. In that one game, we probably played our best basketball and our worst basketball of the year," Edwards stated.

Among the rising stars for the number-nine ranked Pandas are Marisa Haylett, who dropped 15 points and 10 points in game one and two, respectively. The senior is currently in the top-ten for scoring in Canada West, averaging 14.8 points

per game and leads the team in that category.

"She's a fourth-year kid that has really stepped up as a leader. She's one of those players that has evolved for us over the years and is now a top player in the conference."

Another all-around Panda is Nicole Clarke, who knocked down a combined 26 points over the weekend against Regina. So far on the season, the sophomore averages 13.5 points per game, which ranks 15th overall in Canada West.

Haylett and Clarke will be keys to success this weekend at home against the number-four ranked Huskies.

"We're playing another top-four team in the country. We know them well, they're one of our main rivals. We just need to correct the mistakes from the weekend and we'll be ready to go."

Saskatchewan, sitting at 4-2 on the season and ranked number-four in the nation, will provide another challenge for the Pandas. Senior Lindsay DeGroot is currently averaging 19.7 points per game, good for third in Canada West.

Shutting down DeGroot, a transfer from McMaster, will then be key to the Pandas' success.

"She's a previous All-Canadian at McMaster. She's a slasher, a great scorer, and is tough to contain. We'll have to focus hard to shut her down this weekend."

The Pandas will look to get back in the win column this weekend as they wrap up the first half of their season at the Main Gym. Game time both Friday and Saturday night is set for 6 p.m., with the game broadcast also available on [www.pandas.ualberta.ca](http://www.pandas.ualberta.ca)

**Stingy Bears defence ready for sharp-shooting Saskatchewan**

NATHAN LIEWICKI  
Sports Staff

Despite opening Canada West play with four straight victories, the Bears basketball team will head into a pivotal weekend double-header against the Saskatchewan Huskies having dropped four consecutive games.

In their two losses against the lowly Regina Cougars last weekend, the Golden Bears were unable to take advantage of two early leads they built up. Against the Huskies, the Bears will need to step up their play as the clock ticks down.

"We've been up early in most games as a result of coming out with a plan and being focused. Right now, however, our team seems to lose focus a little bit as the game moves along," head coach Greg Francis stated.

"It's all about toughness. When you play good teams, it matters how you play late in the game and stick to fundamentals. We have to get back to that because if we do, we can beat Saskatchewan."

The Bears are tied with the Calgary Dinos for first in the conference in scoring defence to this point in the season, surrendering an average of 66.8 points per game. Alberta will need two superior defensive efforts if they're going to slow down the high flying Huskies offence, which is averaging 81.5 PPG — second best in Canada West.

Leading the offensive charge for the Huskies is Showron Glover. The star guard currently leads the country in scoring with 25.2 PPG and is knocking down over 40 per cent of his three-point attempts. Fellow guard Michael Linklater is

also averaging 15.3 PPG for the Huskies.

"[Glover] has been their leading scorer in every game of the year so far, but I think we have guys that can match up and make it tough for him," Francis noted. "Saskatchewan has other guys that can get you as well, so they're going to take everything we have defensively."

The Bears sport the second-worst offence in the conference, but will meet a Huskies team that has given up an average of 79.7 PPG if they want to head into the break with a couple of wins.

The expected return of fantastic freshman guard Kenneth Otieno will certainly help the Bears offence this weekend. Otieno has missed the last five games with a knee injury and his superhuman rebounding skills — 11.0 rebounds per game average — will benefit the Bears.

"Having Ken back will help us tremendously because he brings another dimension to our rebounding. When he's healthy, we can be one of the top rebounding teams in the country and he can score double-digits as well," Francis explained.

Turnovers also played a significant role in last Saturday's loss to Regina, as the Bears committed a season-high 31 turnovers.

"If we can control the tempo and keep our turnovers down, I think we'll be fine. We're going to need to play closer to 40 minutes than we've played all year if we are going to defeat Saskatchewan," Francis said.

The last two Bears basketball games of '09 are slated to tip-off at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The games can also be heard online at [www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca)

**WEEKEND  
START  
TIMES**

**BASKETBALL**  
**FRI., NOV. 27 / SAT., NOV. 28**  
Pandas vs. Saskatchewan  
6 p.m., Main Gym



VS.



**BASKETBALL**  
**FRI., NOV. 27 / SAT., NOV. 28**  
Bears vs. Saskatchewan  
8 p.m., Main Gym



VS.



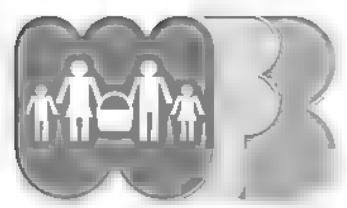
**HOCKEY**  
**FRI., NOV. 27**  
Pandas vs. Calgary  
7 p.m., Clare Drake Arena



VS.







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Feb	5	19
Mar	5	19
Apr	2	16
May	7	21
Jun	4	18
Jul	2	16
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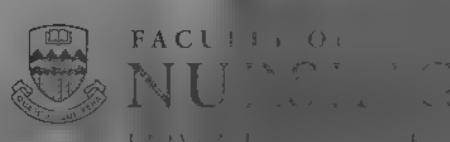
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# Swine flu debacle just another example of athletes getting preferential treatment



BREN  
CARGILL

Sports  
Commentary

Ever since the Olympics first began when the Greeks would erect statues of their athletes, men have been told that if you possess elite athletic skill, it puts you above all others. Incidents of athletes being treated differently than everyone else have occurred in amateur, collegiate, and professional athletics ranging from the fudging of grades to preferential treatment of athletes after run-ins with the law. Unless you've been living under a rock since the days of ancient Greece, you shouldn't be surprised that the Calgary Flames and, more recently, the Vancouver Canucks, jumped the queue to receive the H1N1 vaccine before most of the priority demographics.

Since these moves became public, other players on sports teams have come out publicly saying that they need this shot just as much as any other of the high-risk groups. Besides the fact that these athletes travel a great deal, they had no right to put themselves at the front of the line for the H1N1 shot. Should we be surprised that they feel this way though?

This isn't just the first prime example of preferential treatment being given to male athletes with high levels of talent. Back when he was a high-school basketball player, current Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose was worried

that he wouldn't have the marks to make it into a big time college basketball program, so he got someone else to take his SAT exams for him. Rose's grades improved enough to get him into the University of Memphis and assured that he would get his chance to play college basketball.

**It's easier to punish  
a bureaucrat than  
an athlete, especially  
when the latter  
generally receives  
greater public  
admiration.**

And Rose's underhandedness isn't even the tip of the iceberg. The possession and use of steroids and HGH in the United States is highly illegal and usually results in jail time for the average American, as they're considered controlled substances along the same lines as narcotics. Outside of female track competitor Marian Jones, who perjured herself in front of a congressional hearing by denying ever using steroids, only to be caught using the very steroids she denied, none of the numerous other male athletes (Rodney Harrison, Alex Rodriguez, Rafael Palmeiro, and Bill Romanowski to name a few) who are confirmed users of steroids have had any sanctions levied against them.

Still, it gets worse.

NFL wide receiver Donté Stallworth is living proof that a name and some

money can go a long way. This past summer, while driving home from a club in Miami under the influence of alcohol, Stallworth hit and killed a pedestrian in a crosswalk. However, he spent all of just 24 days in jail when any average person would've gotten years in jail, not days.

The Calgary Flames organization spun the story like a lot of these sports franchises try to: that they're a high-risk group that travels a lot and are in constant contact with each other, and really do need the H1N1 shots immediately. The Flames organization dropped the ball, however, when it procured enough dosages to inoculate not only its players, but also their families — in this instance, two Alberta Health officials lost their jobs. Meanwhile, people all over the province of Alberta, and country for that matter, asked why the families of these high-salaried athletes were more important than the infants and pregnant women that were supposed to receive them first. After all, it's easier to punish a bureaucrat than an athlete, especially when the latter generally receives greater public admiration.

The Calgary Flames getting their H1N1 shots — on top of the Canucks, the Flames' AHL affiliate Abbotsford Heat, and the OHL's Sarnia Sting — was just another example of western society's penchant of giving preferential treatment and breaks to athletes. Predictably, though, the storm of fury from the Flames H1N1 saga is starting to blow over — because eventually we'll forgive and forget just like we always do, due to our undying adulation for athletes.

## sportsshots

Compiled by Evan Daum

### Pandas Volleyball

The Pandas volleyball squad heads to Saskatoon this weekend to finish the first half of the regular season against the Huskies.

Number-five ranked Alberta comes into the series after a weekend split against the Regina Cougars last weekend in the Queen City, while Saskatchewan also split on the road last weekend against SFU.

Pandas senior Tiffany Proudfoot continues to lead the conference in kills, averaging just over four per set.

Action gets underway both Friday and Saturday night at 6 p.m.

### Bears Volleyball

Like the Volley-Pandas, the Bears travel to Toon Town this weekend for a weekend series against the Huskies. The number-two ranked Bears are coming off a sweep of Regina last weekend.

The Bears enter the weekend with a conference record of 6-2, and sit tied with Calgary and TWU atop the Canada West standings, but have played two more games than both those teams.

Alberta and Saskatchewan cap off the first half of the season Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m.

### Wrestling

The Alberta wrestling team heads to Saskatoon this weekend to compete in the Huskie Invitational this Saturday and Sunday.

The event will mark the team's fourth of the season, after competing at the Dino, McMaster, and



PETE YEE

Hargobind/Clansmen invitational meets earlier in the year.

The Alberta wrestlers take to the mat Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m.

### Bears Hockey

The number-two ranked Golden Bears travel south this weekend to Lethbridge for the second time in three weeks to take on the Pronghorns for a pair of games to wrap up the first half of the season. The Bears come into the weekend with a five-point lead over Manitoba for top spot in the conference, fresh off a home sweep of the Calgary Dinos. Lethbridge enters the weekend after a road split last weekend in Vancouver against UBC.

Lethbridge features the Canada West's leading goal scorer Andrew Courtney, whose 13 goals are second only to Lakehead's Brock McPherson's 15 for tops in the nation.

Bears forward Chad Klassen continues to lead the conference in points

with 25 — two behind UNB's Hunter Tremblay for first in the CIS.

Alberta and Lethbridge do battle both Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m.

### Swimming

The Alberta swim teams heads to Southern Ontario this weekend to take part in a pair of meets.

The Green and Gold head to the University of Toronto tonight to compete in the University Challenge Cup. The Bears and Pandas will be among eight squads competing at the event, and will be joined by fellow Canada West schools Calgary and UBC, as they'll compete in 10 different events.

Friday through Sunday, some of Alberta's top swimmers will be competing at the Canada Cup meet in Etobicoke, Ontario. The meet is the first of three national events which serve as stepping stones to nationals, and are also used as trials for Pan American Games qualifying.



# Battle of Alberta in women’s hockey set to resume after seven-year hiatus

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Editor

For the first time since 2002, the Pandas hockey squad is set to renew the Battle of Alberta with the Calgary Dinos in a home-and-home weekend series.

After spending the past seven seasons playing in the Alberta Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Dinos have returned to Canada West women’s hockey after leaving the league after the 2001/02 season, and for the first time this season will face off against the number-three ranked Pandas.

Despite occupying the basement of the Canada West standings with a 1–9–0 record, the Dinos bring with them big-time name recognition. Head coach Danielle Goyette, a two-time Olympic gold medalist with the Canadian women’s team, is in her third season at the helm of the Dinos and her first at the Canada West level.

While the Dinos put up an impressive 22–7 record last season at the ACAC level, the program’s return to Canada West hasn’t seen that level of excellence transfer over.

Even though the ACAC has grown in strength over the years, a wide gap still exists between that league’s best, and the upper tier of the Canada West.

“I think there’s a small difference in the level. The top teams in the Canada West are somewhat stronger from a skills standpoint than, say, the bottom teams are in relation to the ACAC,” Pandas head coach Howie Draper explained.

“The main thing is the commitment to getting better. The teams in Canada West might have more of a high-performance mentality. I know that’s something that Danielle Goyette will be trying to bring to her team, and that’s why they were so successful in the ACAC.”

After putting up a solid season last year for the Pandas, netminder Dana Vinge has elevated her game



DANIELLE JENSON

**JURASSIC PARK** After spending seven years playing at the ACAC level, the Calgary Dinos have returned to Canada West with a 1–9–0 start to the season.

to a new level this season. With a sparkling 11–0–0 record, and a .945 save percentage, Vinge has been a game-changer at times this season for Draper’s team.

“She’s won games for us this year in Saskatchewan, and she did a great job for us against Manitoba. I felt that certain aspects of that particular weekend, the games could have gone either way, and had she not made some of the great saves she made, we may not be two games up on Manitoba,” Draper said.

Also leading the charge into the weekend series against the Dinos will be the nation’s leading point-getter, and second leading goal-scorer Tarin Podloski. Podloski, whose 22 points are two more than Becky Conroy of Queen’s, has been excellent again this

season after setting the CIS single-season scoring record last year with 61 points.

Podloski is part of a core group of veterans that have helped a young crop of first-year Pandas excel through their first 12 games of the season.

“Our older players usually do a really good job of helping them feel comfortable and helping build that bond between the so-called veterans and the rookies, so that’s never been an issue and I think we’re seeing as a result, the team is really coming together and starting to gel.”

The Pandas and Dinos renew their provincial rivalry this weekend at Clare Drake Arena Friday at 7 p.m., and then Saturday afternoon in Calgary, as the Pandas look to wrap up the first half of their season with a flawless record.

# High-octane offences highlight Vanier Cup

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Editor

For only the second time, the Queen’s Golden Gaels and the Calgary Dinos will meet for Canadian university football’s top prize — the Vanier Cup. The Gaels and Dinos will meet this Saturday at PEPS Stadium in Quebec City, with one looking to cap off their season in style.

The Canada West champion Dinos defeated the Saint Mary’s Huskies last week in a 38–14 romp in the Uteck Bowl to punch their ticket to the Vanier Cup for the first time since 1995, when the Dinos defeated the Western Mustangs to claim their fourth national title.

Queen’s on the other hand emerged from a tight contest, as they defeated Laval 33–30 in the Mitchell Bowl, ending the Rouge et Or’s season, stopping them from making it to the Vanier Cup in front of their hometown fans in Quebec.

For the Gaels, it will mark the team’s first trip to the national championship game since 1992 when they shut out Saint Mary’s 31–0.

The Dinos, who went 7–1 in the regular season, sport one of the nation’s best offensive foursomes in the form of quarterback and Hec Creighton Award nominee Erik Glavic, running back Matt Walter, and wideouts Nathan Coehoorn and Anthony Parker.

Glavic, who is looking to claim his second Creighton award as the nation’s top collegiate football player, was among the nation’s most feared offensive threats this season, passing for an average of 273.1 yards per game, and rushing for more than 60 yards per game in the regular season.

Walter was second in the nation in rushing yards with 1,103 yards in the regular season, while Parker and Coehoorn were one and two respectively in receiving yards per game in the Canada West.

For Queen’s, offence was also a strength, as the Gaels ranked fourth in the nation in total offence behind Ottawa, Calgary and Western.

Quarterback Dan Brannagan will be the key to the offence for Queen’s. Brannagan was second in the nation in passing yards per game this season, tossing for over 368 yards a contest.

Brannagan’s favourite target all season long has been the nation’s top receiver, senior Scott Valberg, whose 114.1 receiving yards per game were more than 10 yards in front of his closest competitor.

Offensive fireworks should be the storyline when the Canada West champion Dinos hook up with the OUA champs from Queen’s in the 45th edition of the Vanier Cup this Saturday at 10 a.m. The game can be seen live from coast-to-coast on TSN.

## HEAD-TO-HEAD

**SATURDAY NOV. 28**  
Queen’s vs. Calgary  
10 a.m. PEPS Stadium  
Quebec City, PQ  
TSN

**QUEENS**

VS.

**CD**

REGULAR SEASON RANKINGS		
Offence	QUE	CGY
Scoring	5th	3rd
Rushing	15th	1st
Passing	2nd	5th
Total	4th	2nd

Defence		
QUE	CGY	
Scoring	8th	12th
Rushing	3rd	2nd
Passing	12th	23rd
Total	5th	11th

The School of Energy and the Environment (SEE) invites you to attend the next presentation in our “SEE the research at work” seminar series:

### Measuring the Ecological Health in Alberta’s Oil Sands: Replacing Rhetoric with Fact


**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2009  
**Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm  
**Location:** Stollery Executive Development Centre, Room 5-40 A & B, Business Building, University of Alberta  
**Registration:** Please RSVP online at <http://www.see.ualberta.ca>  
**Questions?** School of Energy and the Environment (SEE): [uasee@ualberta.ca](mailto:uasee@ualberta.ca)

**Dr Stan Boutin**  
(Professor in Biological Sciences)

Measuring the Ecological Health in Alberta’s Oil Sands: Replacing Rhetoric with Fact. Alberta’s oil sands are a world-class resource that require word-class management. Unfortunately, the debate about future development in the oil sands is increasing clouded by rhetoric. Deliberate, informed choices about the tradeoff between industrial development and the ecological health in the region must be based on credible and relevant knowledge. Dr. Boutin will discuss recent results from the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and their relevance to understanding the current and future ecological health of the oil sands.



## THIS WEEK’S SPORTS FLOP



**This week features a flop from the NHL front office. The NHL’s master of discipline, Colin Campbell, dished out more suspensions this week. Five games to the Canadiens Georges Laraque, and two games to Daniel Briere of the Philadelphia Flyers.**

**The suspensions confirmed Campbell throws darts at a dart board to determine suspension lengths. If you have your own theory on how the NHL hands out suspensions, come by a sports meeting every Thursday at 4 p.m. on the third floor of SUB.**

## GATEWAY SPORTS:

**SUSPICIOUS OF SUSPENSIONS SINCE 1910**

**SPORTS MEETINGS RESUME IN JANUARY**

**EVERY THURSDAY AT 4 P.M. ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF SUB.**



ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



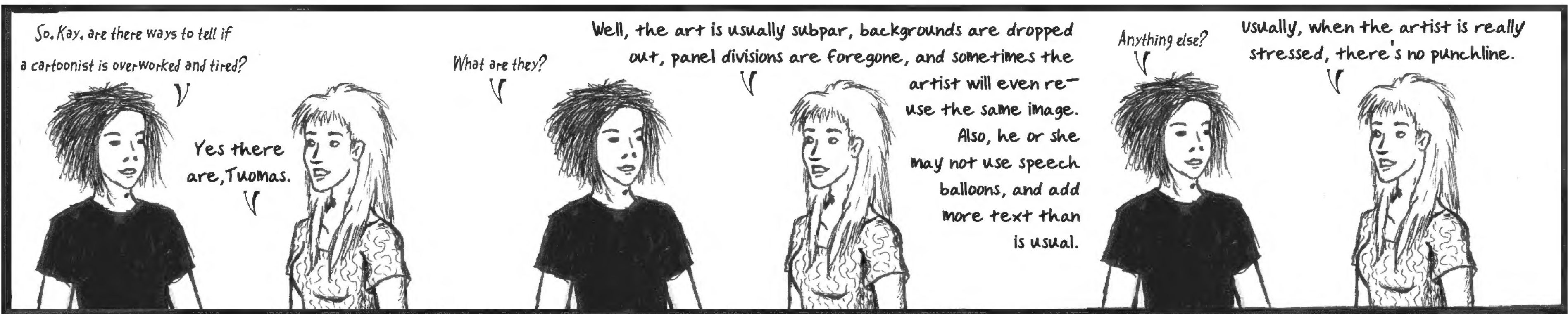
POP AND ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



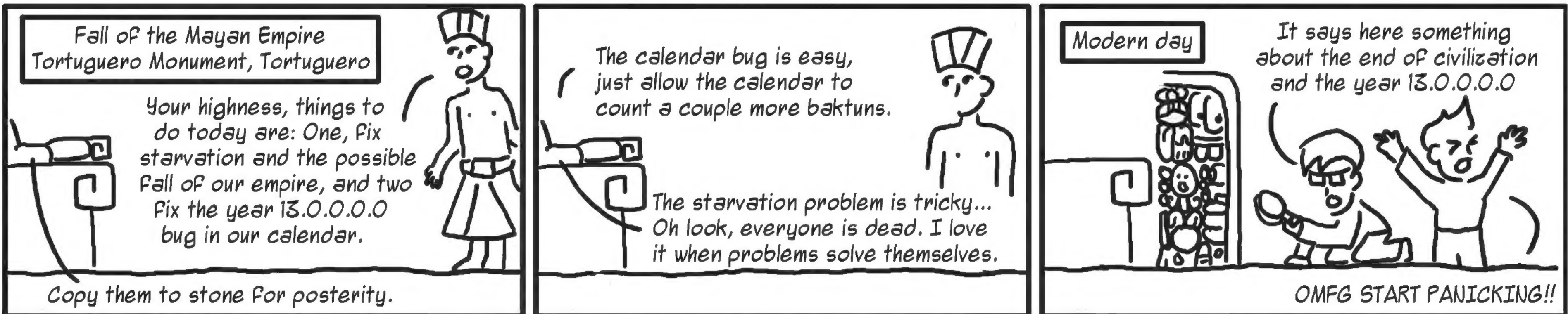
PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell



THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



RETAIL JOKE by Ross Vincent







**LIGHT THE LIGHTS** It's already looking all sparkly and festive around Celebration Plaza, but there's still a month to go before Christmas, so hold off on the rest of those holiday decorations until then, okay?

PETE YEE



**astronowatch**  
by Kati Kovacs

I'm sure everyone will be pleased to know that I'm now 33 per cent done knitting my Tom Baker-era *Doctor Who* scarf. I did miss a panel of grey right at the beginning, but when you see me wearing it, please don't bring that up. I'm already too ashamed.

While we're on the subject of knitting, my new favourite thing to do hungover is knit and watch old episodes of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Combine that with some dim sum, and you'll be feeling right as rain in no time.

While we're on the subject of things falling from the sky, the space shuttle Atlantis returns to

Earth tomorrow after 11 days in space. The shuttle spent over a week docked at the International Space Station. Atlantis brought 13 tonnes of spare parts to the ISS, including some replacement parts for the station's Canadarm.

Did anyone else see the two large meteors on Tuesday night? I think I saw them around 7 p.m. If you did, let me know on the Astronowatch Facebook page!

*AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at [thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch](http://thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch) or check out the FABservatory's site at [www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory](http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory)*

**CLASSIFIEDS**

To place a classified ad, please go to [www.campusclassifieds.ca](http://www.campusclassifieds.ca)

**FOR RENT**

For rent—to share, 2 bdrm, 2 bath 1,100 sq.ft

condo with univ student close by amenities, on major bus route Riverbend area avail Jan.1 \$700/mth 403-483-6464

**WANTED**

Looking for U of A students interested in forming Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) awareness group. contact: [stop.fasd@gmail.com](mailto:stop.fasd@gmail.com)

solution, tips and computer programs at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cameron Library Craft Sale November 26 & 27, 2009 9:30am - 3pm Room 3-03  
Cameron Library Free Admission/Door Prizes

**EMPLOYMENT-PART TIME**

Male quadriplegic requires live-in help two weekends/month. Driver's license required, will train. 780-469-0603

Swimming & gymnastics instructors wanted for January. Fun learning environment for children in sport programs at Kinsmen Center offered evenings & Saturday mornings. Superior wages, contact Taunya 780-444-7300 or send resume to [swingym@telusplanet.net](mailto:swingym@telusplanet.net)

**AND FINALLY**

While November may be nearing its end, No-Shave November is about endurance. Us final three moustachineers will be silently battling it out over the winter break, hoping that the others' families will force them to cut off their nose neighbours. Moustache competitions: the most dangerous game.

**JUST CHRISTMAS 2009**  
Justice at Christmas  
A Global Fair Trade Market Place

**Remember when Christmas was about thoughtful giving?**

**LOCATED AT:**  
Alberta Avenue Community Hall  
9210 - 118 Avenue

Friday, November 27 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm      Saturday, November 28 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

For more information visit: [justchristmas.org](http://justchristmas.org)



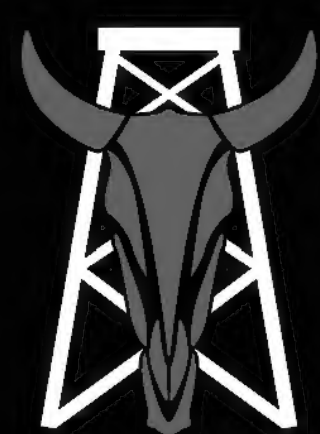
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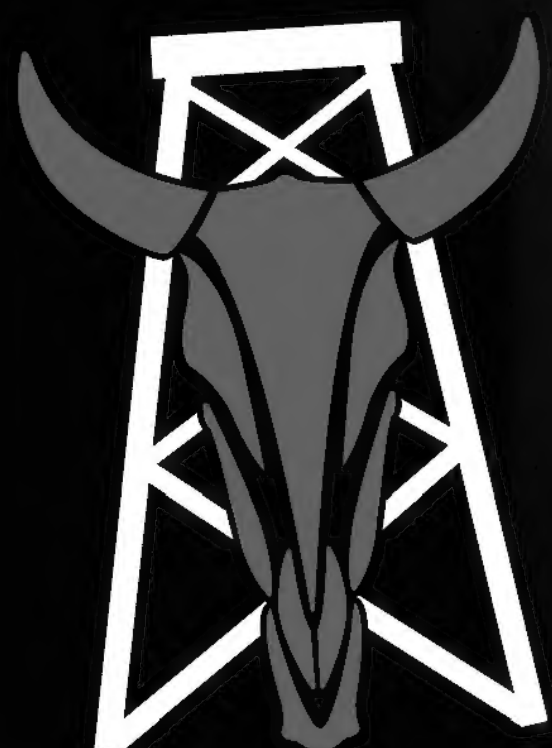


LIVE IN CONCERT AT

## OIL CITY ROADHOUSE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT OIL CITY,  
TICKETMASTER, OR SELECT STUDENT GROUPS.



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